

18th Congress Documents



United we Continue

For the satisfaction of our
contemporary needs. Against
imperialist-capitalist barbarity.

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WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

Class oriented - uniting - democratic - modern – Independent – Internationalist!

08.02.2022



Announcement

With enthusiasm and militancy we are organizing the 18th World Trade Union Congress!

Dear colleagues,

The WFTU Presidential Council which met on 1&2 February 2022 announced the organization of the 18th World Trade Union Congress in Rome, Italy, on 6, 7 and 8 of May 2022, under the slogan: "United, we continue! For the satisfaction of our contemporary needs, against imperialist-capitalist barbarity!"

The 18th Congress of the WFTU is being organized in a very difficult period for workers of the world, who are heavily affected by the consequences of the Pandemic on their life and jobs, by the new economic crisis and anti-workers measures taken in most countries. The 18th Congress will give a great opportunity to trade unionists to discuss about the problems and various challenges faced by the working class of their countries and regions. The rich, democratic discussions of the Congress, the militant decisions and directions it will adopt, will give new momentum to the workers' struggles and the development of our big, class-oriented trade union family.

Because of the restrictions due to the Pandemic, the Congress will take place with both physical and virtual participation. The main criteria for the physical participation of the delegates are the following:

- The organizations must be active members of the WFTU that struggle with the banners and the goals of the WFTU and support the WFTU campaigns and initiatives in their country and internationally.
- They must delegate working women and young trade unionists so that they help in the renewal in practice.

Two (2) delegates from each country, two (2) delegates from each TUI and two (2) delegates from each Regional Office can physically participate in the Congress. For registration or any further information please send to: athens@wftucentral.org; gensec@wftucentral.org

Let us all united prepare a successful 18th World Trade Union Congress, a historic crossroad of the struggles, goals and aspirations of the world working class!



The Secretariat

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Program of the 18th World Trade Union Congress

Rome, Italy 6-7-8 May 2022

Topics:

- 1) Report of Action-Theses-Action Plan
- 2) Election of new bodies

Thursday 5 May (Afternoon)

Arrival of Delegates - Credentials - Registration - Reception of participant card

1st Topic

Friday 6 May (9.00-18.00)

- 9.00-18.00 1 minute of silence in the memory of militants who passed away
Opening of the Conference - Election of the Congress Presidium
Welcome speech by USB ITALY
Welcome speech by the WFTU President
Greetings by invited guests
Video - WFTU Report
Break - Departure of invited guests
Presentation of the Keynote Address by the WFTU General Secretary
Speeches (7 minutes each)
Lunch 90'
Speeches
Dinner

Saturday 7 May (9.00-18.00)

- 9.00-18.00 Beginning of works
Speeches
Video in honor of Giuseppe di Vittorio, President of the WFTU from 1949-1957
Lunch 90'
Speeches
Closing of 1st Topic, Resolutions
Dinner

Sunday 8 May (9.00-14.00)

- 9.00-14.00 2nd Topic - Election of new Bodies
Time of speech for the 2nd Topic: 3 minutes
Lunch
End of works with the International
Departure of the delegates for their countries

*Note: Delegates who will participate virtually will also be entitled to speak
It is estimated that totally 80 speakers will take the floor*



The Secretariat



FEDERACIÓN SINDICAL MUNDIAL

Clasista - unitaria - democrática - moderna - Independiente - Internacionalista



08.02.2022

Comunicado

¡Con entusiasmo y militancia estamos organizando el 18º Congreso Sindical Mundial!

Estimados compañeros y compañeras,

El Consejo Presidencial de la FSM, reunido los días 1 y 2 de febrero de 2022, anunció la organización del 18º Congreso Sindical Mundial en Roma, Italia, los días 6, 7 y 8 de mayo de 2022, bajo el lema: " ¡Seguimos juntos! Por la satisfacción de nuestras necesidades contemporáneas, contra la barbarie imperialista-capitalista".

El 18º Congreso de la FSM se organiza en un período muy difícil para las y los trabajadores del mundo, fuertemente afectados por las consecuencias de la pandemia sobre su vida y sus empleos, por la nueva crisis económica y las medidas anti-obrares adoptadas en la mayoría de los países. El 18º Congreso ofrecerá una gran oportunidad a los sindicalistas para intercambiar opiniones sobre los problemas y los diversos retos a los que se enfrenta la clase obrera de sus países y regiones. Las ricas y democráticas discusiones del Congreso, las decisiones y orientaciones militantes que adoptará, darán un nuevo impulso a las luchas de las y los trabajadores y al desarrollo de nuestra gran familia sindical de clase.

Debido a las restricciones por la Pandemia, el Congreso se desarrollará con una participación tanto física como virtual. Los principales criterios para la participación física de los delegados son los siguientes:

- Las organizaciones deben ser miembros activos de la FSM que luchen con las banderas y los objetivos de la FSM y apoyen las campañas e iniciativas de la FSM en su país y a nivel internacional.
- Deben delegar a mujeres trabajadoras y jóvenes sindicalistas para que ayuden a la renovación en la práctica.

Dos (2) delegados de cada país, dos (2) delegados de cada UIS y dos (2) delegados de cada Oficina Regional pueden participar de manera presencial en el Congreso. Para la inscripción o cualquier otra información, por favor envíen a: athens@wftucentral.org; gensec@wftucentral.org

Preparemos todos juntos un exitoso 18º Congreso Sindical Mundial, ¡Cruce histórico de las luchas, objetivos y aspiraciones de la clase obrera mundial!



El Secretariado

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FEDERACIÓN SINDICAL MUNDIAL

Clasista - unitaria - democrática - moderna – Independiente – Internationalista



Programa del 18º Congreso Sindical Mundial

Roma, Italia 6-7-8 de mayo de 2022

Temas:

- 1) Informe de Acción - Tesis - Plan de Acción
- 2) Elección de nuevos órganos

Jueves 5 de mayo (Tarde)

Llegada de los delegados – Credenciales - Inscripción -Recepción de la tarjeta de participante

1er Tema

Viernes 6 de mayo (9.00-18.00)

- 9.00-18.00 1 minuto de silencio en memoria de militantes fallecidos
Apertura del Congreso - Elección del Presídium del Congreso
Discurso de bienvenida por USB ITALIA
Discurso de bienvenida por el Presidente de la FSM
Saludos de los invitados especiales
Vídeo - Informe de la FSM
Pausa - Salida de los invitados especiales
Presentación del discurso de Apertura por el Secretario General de la FSM
Discursos (7 minutos cada uno)
Almuerzo 90'
Discursos
Cena

Sábado 7 de mayo (9.00-18.00)

- 9.00-18.00 Inicio de los trabajos
Discursos
Vídeo en honor de Giuseppe di Vittorio, Presidente de la FSM de 1949-1957
Almuerzo 90'
Discursos
Clausura del 1er Tema, Resoluciones
Cena

Domingo 8 de mayo (9.00-14.00)

- 9.00-14.00 2º Tema - Elección de nuevos órganos
Tiempo de discurso para el 2º Tema: 3 minutos
Almuerzo
Fin de los trabajos con la Internacional
Salida de los delegados para sus países

Nota: Los delegados que participarán virtualmente también tendrán derecho a la palabra
Se estima que un total de 80 oradores tomarán la palabra



El Secretariado

Communiqué

Avec enthousiasme et militantisme, nous organisons le 18e Congrès Syndical Mondial!

Chères et chers collègues,

Le Conseil Présidentiel de la FSM, qui s'est réuni les 1er et 2 février 2022, a annoncé l'organisation du 18ème Congrès Syndical Mondial à Rome, Italie, les 6, 7 et 8 mai 2022, sous le slogan: "Un.e.s, nous continuons! Pour la satisfaction de nos besoins contemporains, contre la barbarie impérialiste-capitaliste!"

Le 18e Congrès de la FSM est organisé dans une période très difficile pour les travailleurs du monde, qui sont fortement touchés par les conséquences de la pandémie sur leur vie et leur emploi, par la nouvelle crise économique et les mesures anti-ouvrières prises dans la plupart des pays. Le 18e Congrès donnera une grande opportunité aux syndicalistes de discuter des problèmes et des différents défis auxquels la classe ouvrière de leurs pays et régions est confrontée. Les discussions riches et démocratiques du Congrès, les décisions et orientations militantes qu'il adoptera, donneront un nouvel élan aux luttes des travailleurs et au développement de notre grande famille syndicale de classe.

À cause des restrictions liées à la pandémie, le Congrès aura lieu avec une participation à la fois physique et virtuelle. Les principaux critères pour la participation physique des délégués sont les suivants :

- Les organisations doivent être des membres actifs de la FSM qui luttent avec les barrières et les objectifs de la FSM et soutiennent les campagnes et les initiatives de la FSM dans leur pays et au niveau international.
- Elles doivent déléguer des femmes travailleuses et des jeunes syndicalistes afin qu'ils contribuent au renouvellement dans la pratique.

Deux (2) délégués de chaque pays, deux (2) délégués de chaque UIS et deux (2) délégués de chaque Bureau Régional peuvent participer au Congrès de manière physique. Pour l'inscription ou toute autre information, veuillez envoyer un courriel à: athens@wftucentral.org; gensec@wftucentral.org

Préparons tous ensemble un 18e Congrès Syndical Mondial réussi, un carrefour historique des luttes, des objectifs et des aspirations de la classe ouvrière mondiale!



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Programme du 18ème Congrès Syndical mondial
Rome, Italie 6-7-8 mai 2022

Thèmes:

- 1) Rapport d'action - Thèses - Plan d'action
- 2) Election des nouveaux organes

Jeudi 5 mai (Après-midi)

Arrivée des délégués - Accréditation - Enregistrement - Réception de la carte de participant

1er thème

Vendredi 6 mai (9.00-18.00)

- 9.00-18.00 1 minute de silence à la mémoire des militants décédés
Ouverture du Congrès - Élection du Présidium du Congrès
Discours de bienvenue d'USB ITALY
Discours de bienvenue du Président de la FSM
Salutations des invités spéciaux
Vidéo - Rapport de la FSM
Pause - Départ des invités spéciaux
Présentation du Discours d'Ouverture par le Secrétaire Général FSM
Discours (7 minutes chacun)
Déjeuner 90'
Discours
Dîner

Samedi 7 mai (9.00-18.00)

- 9.00-18.00 Début des travaux
Discours
Vidéo en l'honneur de Giuseppe di Vittorio, Président FSM de 1949 à 1957
Déjeuner 90'
Discours
Clôture du 1er thème, Résolutions
Dîner

Dimanche 8 mai (9.00-14.00)

- 9.00-14.00 2ème sujet - Election de nouveaux organes
Temps de parole pour le 2ème sujet: 3 minutes
Déjeuner
Fin des travaux avec l'international
Départ des délégués pour leur pays

Note: Les délégués qui participeront virtuellement auront également le droit de parole.
On estime que 80 orateurs prendront la parole.



Le Secrétariat

The Opening Speech of the WFTU General Secretary, George Mavrikos in the 18th World Trade Union Congress



For the satisfaction of our contemporary needs.
Against imperialist-capitalist barbarity.

6 May 2022 - Rome, Italy

Introductory speech by the General Secretary of the WFTU, George Mavrikos, at the 18th World Trade Union Congress

Rome, Italy, 6 May 2022

Dear comrades and fellow militants,

Dear colleagues, brothers and sisters in every corner of the planet.

We greet the 105 million members of the WFTU who live and struggle in 133 countries of the five continents. We greet all those who are on strike and mobilizations these days, we greet all the delegates who take part virtually because of the pandemic, we greet and thank all of you who, despite the many difficulties, are here present and participating in the works of the 18th World Trade Union Congress.

Allow me also to express my appreciation and thanks to USB for playing a leading role in the organization of the Congress in Rome, Italy, and for making it happen in very good conditions. We remind you that in Italy, in Milan, the 2nd Historic Congress of the WFTU took place in 1949, where the leading role of the dedicated WFTU militant Giuseppe Di Vittorio, President of the WFTU from 1949 until his death in 1957, emerged. The USB is today for the Italian working class their class consciousness, the militant vanguard, the one who expresses and carries on the most glorious traditions. The USB is the hope for all the suffering workers of Italy and we call on the workers of the country to follow and support it. We send from this podium a message of peace and peaceful dialogue to the peoples of the Russian Federation and Ukraine and we ask the end of the war. We demand that the US government and its allies finally stop adding fuel to the fire. We know that the root causes of this war lie in NATO's expansionist strategy.

We call on all trade unions and all trade unionists not to relax. The dangers of a general conflagration and a worldwide military conflict are real. Governments like those of Britain, United States and Australia are constantly adding fuel to the fire. With the global propaganda of the capitalist-owned media, they distort reality, propagating that NATO is sending weapons for democracy..

Dear colleagues,

In the pre-congress period we tried to inform the workers broadly. We published everywhere the central document with the title: "Theses and Priorities". We utilized as much as possible live communication within the sectors and inside the workplaces. We gathered comments, suggestions and criticism. Now, here in Rome, for three days we will discuss all the issues of concern to the World Working Class and the Trade Union Movement. We have managed to establish open, democratic and vivid discussions, with confidence in supporting our opinion. This is the kind of congresses that the WFTU holds. This is the kind of congresses that the class-oriented, militant Trade Union Movement must hold. And we are sure that we will have such a congress, worthy of the seventy-seven-year history of the WFTU. Because here we are gathered manual and intellectual workers and employees, workers of art and culture, working women and youth, farmers and workers of the countryside, migrants, refugees, landless farmers and indigenous people.

In the ranks of the WFTU, in the ranks of the militant trade unions, is gathered the most active and the most honest part of the trade union movement. Cadres who have been fired from their jobs for their trade union and political action, militants who have been persecuted by employers and governments, pioneers workers who give their lives every day for the universal interests of the ordinary people.

These are the basic characteristics of our vanguard, the basic characteristics of the members and cadres of the WFTU. That is who we are. That is who we all must be.

What does the yellow, compromised trade unionism has to contrast with our own honest cadres' team? Bureaucracy, Elitism, Corruption, Labor aristocracy and careerism in the courts of the bourgeoisie. They are servants of Danone, of the IMF, of the imperialists and the multinationals. That's who they are. That's the kind of leadership they have.

Dear friends and comrades,

I began my introductory speech with our cadres, our fighters, because I deeply believe that the treasury of the WFTU, the treasury of the class-oriented trade union movement is its people. Our people, our cadres, along with our line and action are our fundamental strength. It is an invincible force.

All this has been proved and confirmed in practice, in life itself, in the last 17 years. In December 2005, we took over a WFTU heavily wounded and seriously ill. Its buildings and assets in the Czech Republic had been confiscated. It had been evicted from its headquarters and was housed outside Prague in a house located in a field. It was slandered and despised. It had financial debts of \$200.000 and a staff that was old and bureaucratic. The average age was 70 years! It was in general a fearful mechanism and mostly without real contact with the trade union base. Today our Central Offices team has an average age of 35 years and are conscious militants of the WFTU.

Few at the time believed that under conditions of persecution, terror and panic the WFTU could stand up again. And yet we did. We achieved it. It turned out that Ernesto Che Guevara was right when he said and wrote "we must be realistic, we must demand the impossible." The course of 17 years is not a miracle. It is neither the result of a divine prayer nor the consequence of a natural phenomenon.

How did we achieve this big progress? The great leap, as Comrade Quim Boix called it? How is it that today we manage to deliver an organization of 105 million members in 133 countries of the world, whereas in 2005 we received one of 48 million?

First: by the belief, the deep belief that in the modern world, the working class needs a weapon of its own. It needs its own tool to elaborate its strategy and tactics; strategy and tactics for itself as a social class with a particular historical mission.

Against the reformist, revisionist concept that claims that there is supposedly no Working Class today and identifies the Working Class with the manual workers of previous centuries, we have answered and are answering scientifically that in the modern world with the great changes and technological progress, two basic social classes remain: The capitalists, the exploiters on the one hand and the workers and employees on the other. Of course, the working class is also evolving, developing, acquiring more knowledge, is more educated than before, has accumulated more knowledge and experience and its basic needs are constantly expanding. All these changes exist and we take them into account. But despite all these changes, the basic criterion remains: Exploitation. The production of surplus value and the stolen sweat that goes into the pockets of the bourgeoisie.

So we move forward with the belief that in the modern world there is social injustice, there is social exploitation which is even crueler and we still believe that the present Working Class with its great knowledge and experience is closer and holds the switch of the production process in its own hands.

Second: With collectivity and the common militant position of the great majority of our members and cadres. What we have achieved did not come as a result of a single person. It came mainly as a collective effort, a common pursuit and a common stance of all of us. Together we built this edifice. We do not nullify the role of personality. We know that in social history personality certainly influences developments. But it is the masses that write the developments, the progress, and the move forward; it is the collective groups who do that and not kings, cardinals or princes.

Third: We paid attention to the base and we tried not to lose touch with the base; with our unions, with the workers, the unemployed, the immigrants, the refugees, the homeless and the excluded. We reinforced internal

democracy in our operation.

I personally visited 87 countries over the 20 years and some of them many, many times. Members of the Secretariat and the Presidential Council have done the same. Many more of our TUIs and R.O. cadres travelled and were close to the base.

With all these contacts we were getting strength from the base and giving courage to the struggles. We were trying to have our ears and our eyes open to the struggles and demands of the base. This is how one gains the trust of the base and the base becomes more militant, more aggressive because they realize that they are not alone in their struggles. We loved and supported the base of the WFTU and the base is returning its love and appreciation.

Fourth: Utilizing criticism, self-criticism and emulation which are indispensable for our progress and improvement at collective and individual level. As WFTU cadres, we must objectively analyze the situation every time. We must have objective knowledge of the reality in our sector, in our region, in our union and in the world, as the WFTU leadership. To achieve this level we need self-awareness, critical and self-critical examination of our decisions and actions. We have a duty to foster collective emulation, militant ambition for improvement and global personality development in our cadres. And above all, our basic law was and will be the obligation to learn from our mistakes; to study our weaknesses and our mistakes; to analyze them. The intelligent fighter learns from his mistakes. The frivolous never!

Fifth: In this two-decade course, we have walked by utilizing our rich history. With its positive and negative points, with its forward and backward steps; with its dignified compromises and its unacceptable concessions; with its great successes and its few but existing mistakes.

For us today, historical experience, both positive and negative, is a positive asset and a positive weapon for the present and the future. And to build tomorrow you need to utilize the experience of yesterday.

The usefulness of the history of the trade union movement at sectoral, local, national and international level is great today. And at the same time defending ourselves and counterattacking against the dirty attempt to rewrite history is a key task.

We were defending and we defend the historical truth. So we did with special courses on the history of the trade union movement, so we did with special seminars, with book and poster competitions, with publications, articles and speeches. In 17 years we estimate that over three thousand of our cadres, mostly young people, have attended relevant seminars.

Sixth: We took over the WFTU in a state of paralysis, so the immediate task was action. That is why we launched the slogan “Action - Action - Action” at the 15th World Trade Union Congress in Havana, Cuba.

We could not waste time with introversion, inaction and endless discussions. We stressed that we will bring the WFTU back to life “in action”. It was through action that we would prove whether and what we could achieve. And we developed all this rich action that you all know, that is described in the texts and main documents of our Congress and is available in our “Statistics 2005 - 2022” Handbook, in our videos and publications.

So the lesson and the conclusion is action, the action with our goals and priorities. In action over the past years we have organized trade union education and many trade union training courses.

Seventh: We relied financially only on our affiliates, on the base, on the ordinary workers. We received the WFTU in December 2005 with a financial debt of 200 thousand dollars. Today we deliver WFTU without any debt. We don't owe a single penny! And I would like to thank from this podium of the Congress all the organizations that during all these years have supported the WFTU from their “want”. Their support was giving us strength. Today we cover all the expenses of the 18th Congress from the affiliation fees and financial support exclusively from WFTU affiliates.

Dear colleagues and brothers,

After the overthrows in the international balance of power that occurred in the period 1989-1991, the International Trade Union Movement was also faced with great difficulties and great challenges. Those developments gave rise to serious debates, conflicts and confrontations within the trade unions. We can say without exaggeration that the situation was unprecedented. We saw trade unionists and movements in panic. We saw some hiding out of fear, others changing their beliefs overnight, others lowering and hiding their banners, their history, their flags. The changes of the century had taken place and we were all faced with world-shaking events.

I was present in 1994 on behalf of the Greek class trade union movement, as the then General Secretary of the ESAK, at the crucial congress in Damascus, Syria. And I feel the need to thank the GFTU - Syria and the then President of the country Hafez Al-Assad, even though after 28 years, for accepting and bearing the multi-faceted costs of organizing the 13th Congress of the WFTU during a period of persecution against the WFTU.

It was an existential Congress. The discussions were on complex and central ideological, theoretical and organizational issues. Such as whether there was a reason to keep the WFTU or whether it should be dissolved and we should all go to the ITUC (ICFTU then). Like whether the Working Class exists or not, like whether class struggle exists or has been abolished by class collaboration and many more. It was a generalized conflict because both poles, both lines, were strong.

At that congress friendships were broken, fraternal unions were divided, and each of us chose sides. The majority position at the congress was to keep the WFTU and to try to modernize and preserve it. During that tough internal conflict, great personalities played an important role, among them the Cuban General Secretary of the CTC, Pedro Ross, the Vietnamese historical communist CU THI HAU, General Secretary of the VGCL, the Indian Mahendra, President of the AITUC, the Syrian Izz al-Din Nasser, leader of the GFTU and many others, like the Syrian Adib Miro, like trade unionists from Libya...

If I mention these, it is because I want to underline that since we took over the leadership of the WFTU and until today, those who have been constantly attacking the WFTU, the WFTU line and the action, are the leaders of mainly European trade unions who left the WFTU at that time. Their attacks are dirty, slanderous and in collaboration with dark and suspicious mechanisms, also with utilizing international organizations, capitalist governments and the international bourgeoisie.

All those leaderships that left the WFTU have followed for 30 years a path of integration into the capitalist system. They joined the ITUC and the ETUC, saying that they would supposedly change these mechanisms "from the inside". After thirty years, what is the conclusion? Who changed in the end? Who was transformed? Let everyone draw their own conclusions.

We always have our door open. Every militant union is welcome. For seventeen years we have consistently promoted the unity of the working class and all workers. Building solid unity is our daily task. Of course we all know that the word unity has suffered in the vocabularies of all the languages of the world. It is the most overused word. Like a sweet candy, everyone has it in their mouths: both those who sincerely want it and seek it and those who hate it but pretend to seek it.

But unity is not an "empty tunic". It is not a colorless, odorless and tasteless drink. It has a specific content every time.

Take the Palestinian issue for example. The Palestinians are asking for unity, for alliances and international support to get their own independent state. Israel, on the other hand, is also asking for unity, alliances and international support, but to drive the Palestinians out of Jerusalem. Take the example of Cuba. The North Americans and all the imperialists are calling for unity to isolate Cuba. And all of us are calling for unity, organizing campaigns and joining forces and efforts to support Cuba, the CTC and the Cuban People. We call for unity with the objectives of Cuba, against the objectives of imperialist unity. So the key is always to ask: unity with whom and with what goal? Those are judged in time and place. It is in this way that we have tried

to face the needs of the times over all these years, supporting over the years the unity first and foremost of the working class itself, its alliances with the poor peasantry, with the youth and with the progressive intelligentsia that is enlisted in the goals of the vanguard social class. This unity, our unity, class unity, aims at satisfying the contemporary needs of workers and at the same time demanding social changes that will go as far as the overthrow of capitalist exploitation. On the contrary, the pseudo-unity of the reformists, the bureaucrats, the Labor Aristocracy and the so-called “neutrals” aims at the make-up and beautification of capitalism and at class-collaboration. It aims at captivating the trade unions in class-collaboration and in alignment with the imperialists.

Dear friends,

The WFTU and its founding congress in 1945 has been identified with the most progressive and universal worldview formulated and founded by the giant of the World Thought Karl Marx with the help and collaboration of Engels.

On the basis of these principles we tried to proceed for the last 17 years; by strengthening the characteristics of Internationalism, International Solidarity and solidarity among the Peoples of the world. We have relied on the rich internationalist history of the WFTU which has supported the struggles morally, materially and in every possible form. The Internationalism of the WFTU on all continents, in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, and Central America is renowned and recognized both by friends and enemies. Many times we have stressed that Internationalism, Proletarian Internationalism among workers and the Peoples, is the nuclear weapon of the Class Trade Union Movement. We stressed and continue to stress that no one must be alone in their struggles. We stressed and continue to emphasize the right of every People to decide on their own and democratically on their present and future.

During these 17 years, we have never claimed to be neutral. They generally present themselves as neutral, independent or without a “patron” those who swing once this way and once that way. Those who want to look good to everyone, those who are afraid to take a clear position on something or who take a position with opportunistic criteria.

We are neither neutral nor independent! We are 100% committed and dependent on the principles and values of the class struggle, on the history and sacrifices of our heroes, on the need for the emancipation of the working class. And because we are who we are, we are not afraid of imperialist threats. The imperialists and the international bourgeois class are afraid and worried about the strengthening of the WFTU. That's why they always use the same anti-democratic measures like eg. in 1952, when the renowned president of the WFTU, Giuseppe Di Vittorio, was banned from traveling to the United States to speak before the UN; similarly today, the General Secretary of the WFTU was banned from entering the United States for the same reason; in the same way they continue with rigged trials against our cadre, Cliff, in Los Angeles and against our leaders in all the capitalist countries.

All these years we have sent them – and we are sending them once again from the podium of the 18th World Trade Union Congress – the message that we are not afraid of them. We do not forget or forgive their crimes. The WFTU of today will either be respected or feared. There is no third way.

So we organized four international campaigns and material support for the Palestinian People. We organized a global strike against Israeli merchant ships in all the ports of the world. We organized children's camps for young Palestinians, campaigns for the release of prisoners in Israeli jails, interventions in international organizations for the right of the Palestinian People to have their own independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital on the basis of 1967 borders. We organized similar initiatives of internationalism and solidarity to Cuba and the Cuban People and together with many other movements we achieved the release of the 5 Cubans who were imprisoned in the US prisons. In all international forums we repelled the slanders launched by yellow union leaders together with the anti-Cuban mafia living in Miami. And so we will continue until the blockade is abolished and the land of Guantanamo is returned to Cuba. We had the same position for Venezuela, for Bolivia, against the coup in Brazil and everywhere. In every corner of the world the internationalist stance of

the World Federation of Trade Unions became known.

The years I am talking about were marked by many imperialist wars. Those who claimed that the overthrows of 1989-1991 would be in favor of international peace turned out to be hypocrites. The politically foolish nonsense of the despicable figure of M. Gorbachev that we would all live as brothers in a common house was proved hypocritical too. Two wars in Europe, in Yugoslavia and the Russia-Ukraine war, and the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, Mali, Libya, Syria, Azerbaijan and elsewhere, confirm that imperialism is a danger to the Peoples and the workers.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine brings to the surface issues that are always topical and always useful for the workers and the Peoples. We remind you that NATO's war against Iraq was "for democracy", NATO's 79-day bombing of Yugoslavia was "for freedom". In Afghanistan, Syria, Libya, in all places where the USA, the European Union and NATO attacked, it was because NATO is in love with democracy, as they tell us!!!

And all major mass media are rallying around these lies in order to fool the People. Wars like the present one are fought over resources, over energy roads, over ports and seas. Moreover, now in Ukraine we are witnessing another serious event: the close cooperation between neoliberals, neo-Nazis and social democrats. In Ukraine the mask of hypocrites is coming off. For example, in France everyone is happy that Marine Le Pen's neo-fascist formation lost and at the same time they support the neo-fascist government of Ukraine and the neo-Nazi battalions. On the one hand, they supposedly accuse Orban of Hungary of being a racist, but at the same time they support the racist Polish government. Also look at the example of Italy and Greece where they approve the participation and support of governments by racists and neoliberals like Matteo Salvini, Panos Kammenos etc.

So the support and arming of neo-Nazis in Ukraine proves the true face of the USA, NATO, and the European Union. All of them, with this attitude, legitimize Nazism. That is why we are ringing the alarm bell.

Behind all these black mechanisms at trade union level is dragging the ITUC and its subsidiary in Europe, the ETUC. They have chosen side. They have always been with the imperialists. They supported the imperialist wars in Iraq, applauded the wars in Libya and Syria, in Afghanistan, and made statements in favor of NATO bombing of Yugoslavia. Once more, they now stand by the side of NATO imperialists. They shamelessly support the neo-Nazi forces and become a servant of the strategy of the USA and its allies who want the Russian Federation defeated, the People's Republic of China isolated, India and all countries that do not align with their plans captivated.

Now they want to redraw borders, dominate the Arctic and space. This big picture comes to confirm in our days that tolerance of the phenomena of neo-fascism produces great dangers for trade unions and workers, and also that cooperation and alliance with social democracy captivates the trade unions and deprives them of their founding objectives. History teaches that it is a deadly mistake for trade unions to participate in intra-imperialist rivalries and to choose an imperialist camp. Besides, it becomes more and more clear that the most consistent and most effective anti-fascist struggle is the one that leads to the emancipation of the workers and to a socially just society.

As a firm anti-imperialist Trade Union Organization, the WFTU has opposed these wars, organized major initiatives, massive anti-imperialist, anti-fascist rallies and international forums. We were in the war zones in Yugoslavia, Syria and Iraq. During the war in Syria, we went to Damascus many times. Today, when the risks of a generalized war are growing, it is necessary to intensify our struggle for the end of the Russia-Ukraine war and the resolving of all disputes through negotiations. Our main task now is to strengthen the voices and action for the dismantling of NATO. It is NATO that sets the fires of wars everywhere.

Our proposal to announce the 1st of September of each year as an international action day of trade unions for peace and friendship among the Peoples is both timely and realistic. We choose and propose September 1 because on September 1, 1939, Nazi Germany started the World War II which cost the lives of 85 million people. It is therefore worth agreeing that we are reviving and reactivating an earlier decision taken by the WFTU in the 1980s.

Dear comrades,

Another slogan that we launched over the last years was that in the world we live in our hope lies in our struggles. And indeed the workers' struggles brought about many concrete results. Without the struggles that took place on all continents the losses for the wage earners would have been greater. Through the struggles both the solution of some immediate demands, the defense of rights and gains and the repulsion of privatizations, dismissals, anti-workers changes and others were achieved. But the most important gain from the struggles was and is the understanding by workers that our power lies only in the class-oriented struggle. Furthermore, as much as class consciousness is raised and broader masses understand that the limits within the capitalist system are not unlimited, this is also a great gain. The worker who will see from his own experience that the struggles go beyond the satisfaction of his contemporary needs, reaching the conflict and direct questioning of the exploitative system, this worker becomes a stronger and more conscious militant.

As a result of all these struggles and rich actions came the organizational strengthening of the WFTU with the establishment of the Working Women Committee, the Youth Committee, Immigrants Committee, the Legal Advisory Committee, etc.

Over the past years great fights of all forms of struggle have been organized. From the simplest protests, petitions, rallies, to more elevated and more complex forms such as work stoppages, strikes, factory occupations, etc.

I will not mention countries because there is a risk of forgetting a country, a sector or a strike. After all, we all know that on all continents the working class came out and fought.

But let me make three exceptions. One, the great strikes in India, with 200 million demonstrators on one occasion and 260 million on the other, were strikes that gave strength and courage to the whole planet.

The other was the militant strike of the landless farmers in Curuguaty, Paraguay, led by comrade Villalba, which was stained with the blood of militants and heavy sentences that forced the WFTU leader to spend 12 years in prison, in inhumane conditions that we saw with our own eyes during a visit inside Asunción prison.

And the third, which is not one but many together, is the bloodstained strikes by Palestinian workers who resist the Israeli army's checkpoints and stand up to Israeli terrorism.

Dear colleagues,

As WFTU we have highlighted the need to defend the right to strike. It is a sacred right, gained with the blood of our comrades. The international bourgeoisie demands the abolition of the right to strike, putting so many and such obstacles that it will be impossible to organize a strike. We stress from this podium that we will defend the right to strike and the rights to democratic and trade union freedoms at all costs.

Comrades,

For an international Trade Union Organization like the WFTU, our struggles start from the streets, the public squares, the factories and our voices reach the International Organizations we participate in. We have discussed in previous congresses and we have decided to utilize our presence in the International Organizations to promote and point out the workers' issues. We have no illusions about the current role of the International Organizations, particularly after the changes in international balance of power. Today the International Organizations are controlled by the US governments and the European Union.

Remember how many resolutions the UN has taken to stop the blockade against Cuba. A lot. What is the practical result? Empty words. On the contrary, it took only one decision for the imperialists to attack Libya.

And the war was waged. This is the picture today. However, we can, without illusions, use our presence in the UN and the FAO and UNESCO and the ILO to reveal the truth from the point of view of the ordinary people.

Following this tactic over the previous years, we highlighted within the international organizations the murderers of pioneers trade unionists in Colombia, the employer brutality against farm workers in Foggia, Italy, the government responsibilities of France with the attacks in Gardanne, we fought within the FAO against high prices in basic foodstuffs, we highlighted within UNESCO the defense of mother tongues and local dialects which are world heritage.

Within the UN our persistence and our interventions for working women have had a significant impact. And of course in both the UN and the ILO we have consistently exposed the dirty role of governments and employers against Cuba, Venezuela, Syria, Libya, Iraq, Iran and every People who demand to decide for themselves for their present and future.

Colleagues,

Our struggles and our attention included all the demands that concern the toiling people in every corner of the planet. During the period of the pandemic we revealed that “the King is naked” and that the poor paid with their lives for the shortcomings in public health care.

At the same time we insisted on the importance of defending democratic and trade union freedoms while governments, under the pretext of the pandemic, are sharpening their anti-democratic attacks through teleworking and the generalization of part-time work.

The issues of climate change, the utilization of water resources, the need for decent housing, access to clean, potable water for all the residents of Africa, public and free health care, as well as our struggle against child labor have been for many years the frontline of our demands and our central claims on the Action Days established since 2008 and organized every year without fail.

But allow me to underline our struggles for health and safety conditions within workplaces. It is our basic principle to demand that every worker returns home healthy, safe and sound. To return from work as they left home for work. We mourn victims every year. Crimes are committed by employers, by the monopolies and their governments. Three hundred and one miners were buried in Soma, Turkey and the President of Turkey, Tayyip Erdogan, said it was God's will!!! No, it was not God's will. It was a crime of the Employer. In Dhaka, Bangladesh 1.400 female garment workers were buried under the ruins of the old factory. In Qatar, over 6.500 workers have lost their lives in the World Cup works. Everywhere on all continents the situation is tragic. The ILO estimates that 2,3 million men and women lose their lives due to accidents or occupational diseases every year, that is 6.000 deaths a day. Worldwide there are 340 million accidents in the workplace and 160 million victims of occupational diseases are recorded every year.

Governments and capitalists are the moral and physical perpetrators. These incidents are crimes, not the result of weather phenomena. For we know well that in fires it is the poor who are burned, in floods it is the poorest that are drowned, during earthquakes usually it is the poorest that are crushed. The real cause of such crimes lies in the thirst for profits.

As trade unions we have the sacred obligation to daily raise our awareness and demands for workers' health and safety. Not only when such crimes occur. Prevention is valuable, so this is a daily duty for us.

Dear brothers and sisters, colleagues

After five years as WFTU Vice President and 17 years as its General Secretary, I am deeply convinced that the world Working Class and all the workers of the world need the WFTU. They need a WFTU that gives hope, inspires and defends their interests. Without the WFTU the situation for workers and the trade union movement would be much worse and with more difficulties than we have today.

Think about what the WFTU has contributed to your own countries from 1945 to the present day. Everywhere present and always by the side of your peoples and your trade unions. Think about how many trade unions the WFTU helped to found in the early and difficult years. Think what leaders had emerged in your countries and in your sectors, who gave their lives to the class struggles. Do not forget that the most advanced workers' and trade union claims were presented and claimed in the banners, publications and demands of the WFTU. We all have a duty to spread and to defend this historical truth, and to expose the liars and counterfeiters who methodically spread lies through the various Friedrich Ebert foundations, through the various NGOs that, for the most part, are mechanisms of corruption of the workers' consciousness.

Comrades, in conclusion I want to say to all of you, to all our members, that I am optimistic that with unity of all our ranks and by strengthening the class-oriented characteristics of the WFTU, by strengthening our action on what concerns workers today we can meet the demands of the times.

The Russian revolutionary pioneer poet Vladimir Mayakovsky wrote: "the future will not come by itself" in his great poem with the general title: "Pull the future out of the mud!". It depends on our action to pull the future out of the mud of capitalism. The future of all of us cannot be capitalism. The future belongs to the world of work and of struggles. For a world without exploitation of man by man. Let us continue united in our militant line, in the tested line of class struggle and proletarian internationalism.

To pull the future out of the mud!

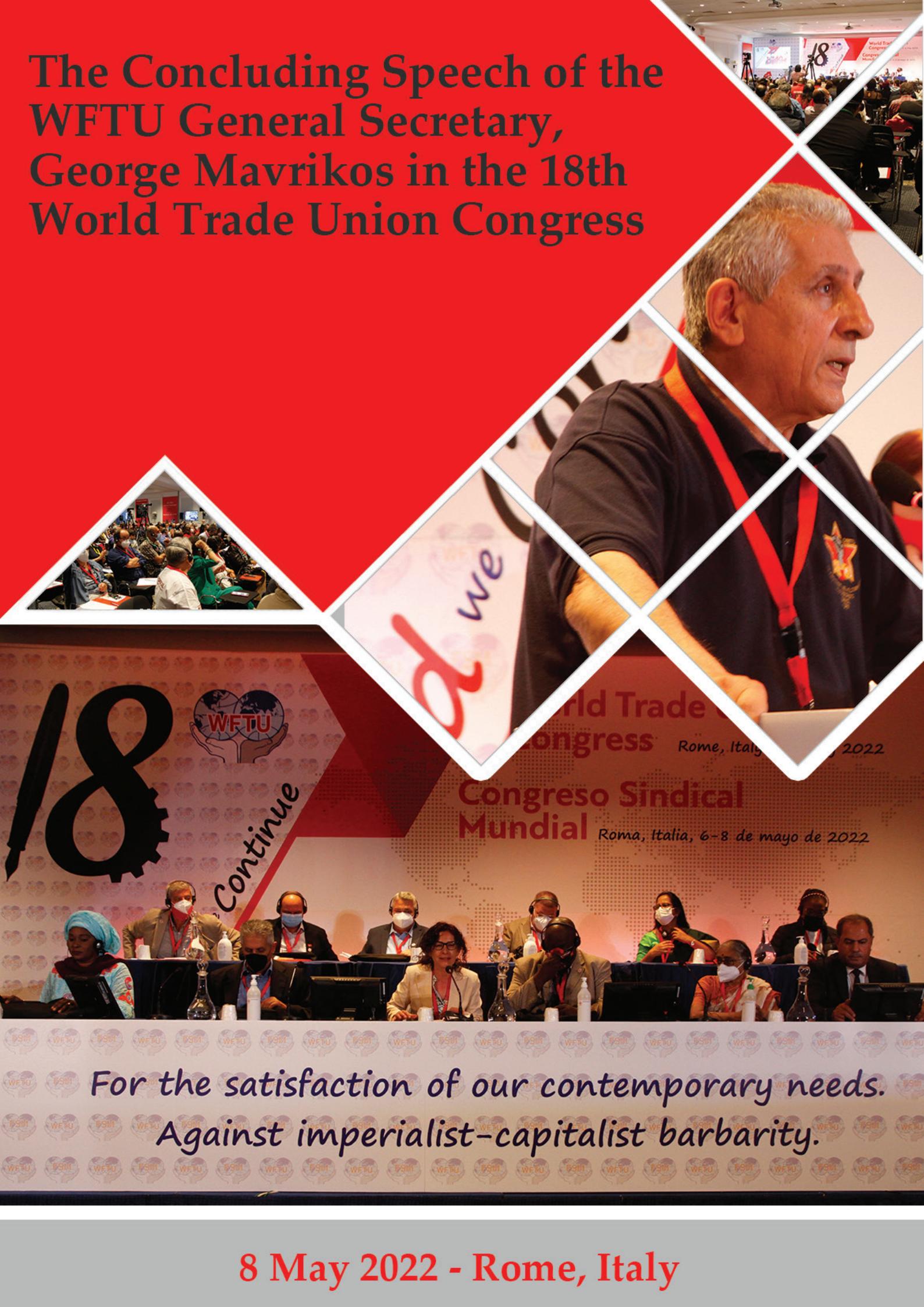
VIVA LA FSM ANTICAPITALISTA

VIVA LA FSM ANTIIMPERIALISTA

Thank you

Rome, 6 May 2022

The Concluding Speech of the WFTU General Secretary, George Mavrikos in the 18th World Trade Union Congress



For the satisfaction of our contemporary needs.
Against imperialist-capitalist barbarity.

8 May 2022 - Rome, Italy

**FINAL FAREWELL SPEECH BY THE GENERAL SECRETARY
OF THE WFTU, GEORGE MAVRIKOS
18th WORLD TRADE UNION CONGRESS**

Rome, Italy - Sunday, 8 May 2022

Dear colleagues,

Brothers and sisters,

Comrades in our common struggle,

This speech will be my last speech I make as General Secretary of the WFTU. In a few hours we will pass the baton to younger militants to continue the great marathon of history.

So let me take a few minutes for a brief account, with some necessary explanations and a comradely and sincere farewell.

I feel lucky and complete. Full of experiences of the long course and the unforgettable militant journey.

Born on a small island with two thousand inhabitants by shepherd parents. We lived far outside the village and had to walk two hours in the morning to get to the primary school and another two hours in the evening to get back to the sheep shed. Those were years when children grew up faster than their age. From a very young age I saw my father arguing and fighting with the traders who came to buy our lambs, our cattle, our cheese products but I could not understand the cause of their quarrel. I was in ignorance.

And when, at the age of 14, I emigrated from the island to Athens, to the capital, there, in the great school of life and practice, I began to understand the truth. Then my question was solved. In Athens we were buying meat at very high prices, while our parents on the island had sold it to the merchants at very low prices.

So, step by step I started my journey from very low, and step by step I reached and met all of you, and all those countless thousands and millions of militants in every corner of the planet.

My first contact with the WFTU was in Sofia, in socialist Bulgaria, in 1976, at the offices of the sectoral union of Agricultural Products and Forests. Then in 1983 it was in Budapest, in socialist Hungary, that I attended WFTU seminars, and in 1986-87 in the Soviet Union, at the magnificent offices in Leninskiy Prospekt, Moscow, I had the fortune to meet famous trade union leaders, among them Gennady Yanayev, leader of the Soviet trade unions and Vice-president of the WFTU. All those years it could not cross my mind that my course would be so closely tied to the WFTU.

But the needs of the struggle and the internationalism of the class-oriented trade union movement in Greece combined with the world-shaking changes in the world situation with the overthrows of 1989-1991 determined the course of many of us. They sealed our lives forever.

As simple and conscious soldiers of the labour trade union movement of our country, descendants of the Unitary GSEE, ERGAS, ESAK and PAME, we did not refuse to join and take on responsibilities and duties where the needs demanded it.

Thus, from 2000 to 2005 from the position of Vice President of the WFTU and Coordinator of the European Regional Office and from December 2005 up to now from the position and responsibilities of the General Secretary, we tried with all our forces, resources and knowledge to be worthy of the honour we were given.

The course we have followed from 2005 to the present day is one that most of you know very well because we have walked together.

The success to pull the WFTU out of the mud and get it to where it is today is a collective success. It is a collective result. This is something that I say, I underline and I believe. Without everyone's participation, action, criticism and observations we would not have achieved so much. The base unions and the workers themselves have played a big part in this course. Thank you and I embrace you all together and one by one.

At the same time a big role, a great role has been played by all the comrades and colleagues who at times I have been fortunate to have by my side, as colleagues and assistants throughout these 20 years in the WFTU. Anda Anastasaki, Alexandra Lyberi, Vasso Moukanou, Maria Barouti, Lorena Jaime, Tasia Koutsoupi, Dimitra Kyriazi, Kalli Patouna and Christoforos Giakoumelos, George Bazionis, Petros Petrou, Ferhat Tum, Elias Ahmed, Elias Baltas, the Palestinians Ahmed and Rahim Sicha. I say to them a big, heartfelt thank you, I apologize for the many times I upset them and I express my admiration and love for them forever. You were the tireless workers of the

WFTU during these 20 years, who have offered your knowledge, education and time 24 hours a day, with your only reward being moral recognition and the satisfaction of giving.

Dear colleagues,

I find it a very complex matter to be able to choose good colleagues. If you choose based on who agrees with you, who will be obedient and who will say YES to you immediately, then you will fail. With "Yes" men you can put together a bureaucratic mechanism. But never a ready and fighting battalion that will be determined and always ready to fall into the fire for the purposes of the WFTU. Such a battalion were my colleagues in the WFTU, being at your disposal day and night, to answer your questions, being by your side. With your unions, your countries and your struggles.

Dear friends,

In this journey of struggle, I must mention, with my appreciation and respect, some people that are not here today, most of them because they have passed away, retired or changed their area of responsibility. Important personalities of internationalists such as the Indian Mahendra from AITUC, and Pande from CITU, such as the Cubans Pedro Ross, Salvador Valdes, Raymundo Navarro, the beloved Ramon Cardona, Gilda, the Brazilian Wagner Gomes, the Syrian Mohamed Shaban Azzuz, the Vietnamese Cu Thi Hau, the Syrian Adib Miro, the South African Eric "Stalin" Mtshali, Cleanthi Cleanthous from Cyprus, George Pontikos from Greece and of course two great comrades who are both delegates to the 18th Congress, the worthy son of the working class of Peru Valentin Pacho and the Indian militant H. Mahadevan.

It may seem paradoxical, but I find it useful to tell you that I personally have been improved in our work by both the opponents and the enemies of the WFTU. Because in ideological and organizational confrontation they force you to strengthen and modernize your arsenal to defend and counterattack.

During all these years we have tried to help and promote the role of many young cadres. Women, youth, workers, scientists, specialists and ideological cadres.

We insist and deeply believe that our cadres need:

- To have belief in the working class and its historic mission. Belief makes you bold in the battle, bold in the struggles.
- To improve their knowledge and ideological level every day because with knowledge one learns how to fight properly.

- To know the history of the movement at local, sectoral, regional, national and international level.
- To fight for the WFTU first and foremost inside their own country. Inside their own country, their own sector, their own workplace, each of us is mainly judged.
- To be internationalist, anti-fascist, anti-racist, respectful of refugees and migrants.
- To be judged by the results of their work, by their actions and not by their words.
- To be courageous and fearless in the face of the class enemy, the exploiters and their instruments. To expose without pity the slanderers of the WFTU and its militants.
- To respect and love their colleagues and their family environment.
- To take care of their spiritual, mental and physical health in order to be ready and resistant to the difficulties of the class struggle.
- To have warm hearts, cold minds and clean hands.

Several of our cadres have many of these characteristics and for this reason we believe that the upward militant course of the WFTU can continue.

Among our cadres there must be mutual respect, mutual understanding and a common attitude in the defence of the WFTU. For me, all these years, anyone who attacked the WFTU unjustly, anyone who slandered our comrades, anyone who collaborated with the bourgeoisie, the imperialists and their organs, was immediately an enemy for me.

The basic, the final criterion for everything is what happens in practice. Life and practice judge both policies and strategies and tactics. Life and practice either confirm or prove something wrong.

So we tried to judge our cadres by their action and deeds. Their action and deeds in their own country, in the workplaces, in front of the bases. And by their firmness in the values and ideals of the class struggle. Stability from beginning to end. Because as we say in Greece “the latter actions honour the former ones”.

Comrades, colleagues,

I know that many of you are wondering: Are we going to proceed properly? Will we continue in the same line, will we move forward united?

Others, more anxious, were collecting signatures asking for G. Mavrikos as General Secretary for another term. Several, such as from Latin America, Asia, Africa, asked for ZOOM meetings to discuss your concerns. Your feelings are an honor to us.

Personally, I interpret and receive this appreciation and support from you as support for the line we have followed all these years, as appreciation for our common basic choices, as satisfaction for our common success in restoring pride in the WFTU and its history, and at the same time I receive this appreciation as a comradely greeting to the class trade union movement in Greece, to PAME which has consistently supported the course of the WFTU for 20 years.

We thank you all for this stance.

But I will tell you clearly and directly what I have believed and continue to believe throughout my social and political course, that no one is irreplaceable. The irreplaceable ones are in the cemeteries.

I announced publicly, in good time from the 17th World Trade Union Congress that it would be my last term and so it will be. Because it is the right thing to do. The leader should leave on time, alive, proud and thriving, not being kicked out, not getting old and crawling.

To go out victorious, not to feel pity for you and tolerate you.

We will all support the new General Secretary. We will understand possible weaknesses and give him time to adjust to the new tasks. We will make suggestions and observations and, when necessary, criticism. Criticism, self-criticism and positive competition are our tools. In harmony with our principles, our history and the principles of the class struggle.

The responsibility to continue united and strong is both collective and individual, of each and every one of us and of each trade union.

Dear brothers and sisters

Dear comrades

Dear fellow travelers

This is what I believe and this is what I testify here before you all.

As the experience of 50 years of social and political struggles that I, like many of you, have in our course. I have no instructions, directions and dictates to leave. Everything I had to say and do through the WFTU, I have said and tried to put into practice all these years with my action, with my speeches, with my attitude and my writings. I am before you an open book.

I greet you.

We continue the struggle

Until the final victory.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

LONG LIVE THE WFTU

LONG LIVE THE WORLD WORKING CLASS

LONG LIVE PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM

First speech of the newly elected WFTU General Secretary, Pambis Kyritsis in the 18th World Trade Union Congress



8 May 2022 - Rome, Italy

First speech of the newly elected WFTU General Secretary, Pambis Kyritsis in the 18th WTUC

Dear colleagues, brothers and sisters, thanks for the election

I am aware of the responsibility I take on. WFTU carries a long and glorious history of struggle and in the current conditions it has a very important role to play in coordinating and guiding the class-oriented labor movement throughout the world.

I feel this responsibility even greater having in mind that I replace George Mavrikos, a comrade who has sealed with his 17-year presence at the helm of WFTU, a course of great organizational development and substantial expansion of its prestige and influence. A comrade with morals and political weight who with his personal example managed to inspire again the respect in the leadership and the procedures of our Federation, after a difficult period of regressions and uncertainty.

When we agreed that WFTU should continue to exist and that after Havana a new beginning should be made with new leadership and modern, democratic and transparent processes, I know very well how heavy the burden was lifted by the leadership and the Secretary General of the WFTU and how big progress and improvement has been made.

Obviously I undertake in better conditions. The operation of our Federation today is not characterized neither by bureaucracy, neither by inaction and nor by fatalism. Today it is an active organization, operating in a spirit of collectivity and democratic participation, having positions and proposals and having active members whose presence and role in all continents and in all sectors is essential and very distinct. Nevertheless, in order to fulfill my role, I will definitely need everyone's support and cooperation. And I'm sure I will have it. Especially of comrade George Mavrikos, whom of course we do not demobilize but we will certainly use him in every possible way. The same goes for other comrades with a great offer who after this congress will be included in the honored category of WFTU veterans.

Our 18th Congress has highlighted with clarity the fields in which the Global Class Trade Union Movement is called to give its battles and to realize its goals. It has set priorities for more productive and effective intervention, a stronger and more united front in workers' struggles. We have no illusions. The battles that await us will be hard and difficult. In the war between labor and capital imposed on us by the barbaric, exploitative nature of the capitalist system, the balance of power at the moment is not such as to ensure us everywhere and always victorious results.

There is no doubt that this balance of power at the global level would be very different, if an important part of the Trade Union movement were not under the dependence and political and ideological influence of the dominant circles of capitalism. If this part would set its priorities in line with the class interests of the workers and not the interest anyone else. In such a case, the ability of workers to resist attacks and impose policies that respect their achievements and rights would certainly be much greater.

The situation regarding living and working conditions would also be very different. The class consistency certainly does not characterize the whole Trade Union movement, but it does characterize the forces that unite in the WFTU. That is why the mechanisms of the system have tried and are still trying with blackmail and exclusion, to erase if possible the class pole in the world trade union movement. They tried to proclaim the universal alignment of the Trade Union movement with the logic of integration and assimilation into the imperialist new world order. But they did not manage to dissolve us, nor to silence us, nor to assimilate us.

We are here armed with the decisions of our Congress, full of determination to change the balances, to resist fatalism and capitulation, to defend the rights of workers, to defend collective bargaining and collective agreement, to oppose the privatization and destruction of the welfare state.

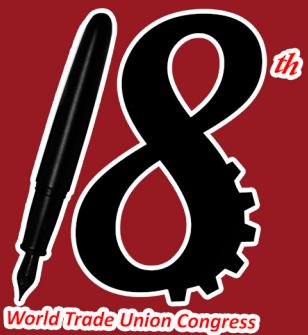
We are here:

-United with collective decisions, with thesis and priorities that unite us, we develop actions, we strengthen solidarity, we lead struggles, we intervene where the decisions concerning the workers are made.

-Organized with a presence in all corners of the earth, with Trade Unions representing over 110 million Members

-Structured with collective leadership and guidance, with regional offices on all continents, with TUI'S covering almost all areas of economic activity.

And most important we are here to inspire workers with the vision of a world without imperialist interventions and wars, without human-to-human exploitation.



Rome Declaration

XVIII Congress of WFTU

6-8 May, 2022, Rome, Italy

Rome declaration

Qualifying with multiple unique features, the 18th Congress of the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) held in the capital city of Rome, Italy on 6-8 May 2022 has been a historical international working class event.

Representing 93 countries, 430 registered delegates participated in the Congress. 330 (77%) participated physically while 100 (23%) participated virtually from all over the world.

In compliance with the decades old rich practice and in adherence to the principle of working class democracy as enunciated in the Constitution of WFTU, the Congress has democratically elected a Presidential Council (PC) in which new Cadres have been elected for the first time.

The PC has representation from 50 countries representing all the five Continents. The same percentages for the new Secretariat and the new Financial Control Committee are as follows: Secretariat countries: 10 , FCC counties: 7.

The composition of the delegates in the Rome Congress of the WFTU shall be remembered for grass-root trade union cadres with spirit of working class courage, conviction, simplicity, sacrificing, and class-oriented militancy. The Rome Congress was truly internationalist, class-oriented, democratic, open, multi-color, workers' Congress. These are lessons learnt and enriched in course of the long seventy six years of class oriented revolutionary struggles conducted by the WFTU affiliates and cadres worldwide led by the leadership of WFTU against the barbarity of capitalism.

99 delegates took the floor. In course of the deliberations by the delegates, the picture captured represented the difficulties that our movement has been facing in their countries. The Congress got the message once again that every small or large class struggle, local, regional, national or international, is part of the global system of the workers' struggle. Constructive self-criticism and criticism featured in number of speeches have greatly enriched the deliberations. This, after all, shows a genuine workers' characteristic that reminds us of the inevitable role of the Detachment and Vanguard in revolutionary overthrow of the capitalism under the leadership of working class.

It is noted with grave shock that our Congress was held in an unprecedented socio-political conditions for the action of the international trade union movement, while it was called to overcome difficulties that we had not faced in the past. The Coronavirus Pandemic has snatched the precious lives of so many of our class brothers and sisters around the world. Further, it has also hampered the organization of our conference: travel restrictions, increased travel costs, unprecedented load for conference logistical infrastructure to enable digital participation delegates.

Moreover the delegates had to confront the restrictions imposed by Embassies and state bureaucratic regulations. These are just some of the challenging factors prompting us to ensure the befitting success of our Conference in order to prepare our cadres for the great class battles in the offing. The fighting working class led by WFTU carried out courageous battle despite multifarious odds and gave a resounding answer to those who would like to see a Congress that would not be worthy of the size and importance of the WFTU.

Also necessary to note that, the WFTU Congress took place in the background of a dangerous international geopolitical and economic development. The deep and deeper depth of the systemic crisis of capitalism, which even bourgeois analysis cannot hide, shows an even greater intensity of exploitation of the working class inflicting further impoverishment, shocking rise in unemployment and the capitalist class onslaught on the workers'

achievements, democratic freedoms and trade union rights.

True to their capitalistic class dishonesty, the bourgeois class is trying to mislead the people with orchestrated campaign hiding the real cause of the crisis. They are projecting Coronavirus Pandemic as the sole cause of the crisis. The Pandemic may have contributed in the timing and depth of the crisis. But the basic cause lies in capitalist system itself. The real causes of this crisis must be traced in the laws of the capitalist mode of production, in the large over-accumulated capital that could not be recapitalized or reinvested, thus hitting hard the capitalist class in their unlimited profit greed.

Capitalist class Governments and the Agents of bourgeoisie in the US, EU and Japan are making major state interventions attempting to revive the capitalist economy by pursuing an expansionary Fiscal Policy. The truth is, however, that no capitalist maneuver can sustainably address the crisis. At best there can be totally temporary breathing space ultimately leading to a deeper crisis.

On the other hand, once again the burden of the crisis is being shifted to the shoulder of the workers. The people are called upon to pay for the new loans and to shoulder the burden of all the anti-labor, anti-people policies which designed to reduce wages, impose layoffs in bigger numbers and crush social security rights. In fact, in the beginning these measures come as temporary emergency measures but they become permanent later on. Shockingly, for the capitalist camp, however, the crisis is an opportunity to notoriously push forward their anti-worker schemes.

Take for example the issue of so-called “green growth”, which is designed to impose financial burden the people on account of expensive electricity, so-called flexible employer-employee relationships, green indirect taxes and new burdens on peoples’ families, in order for the state to support new profitable green investments of business tycoons.

Imperialist antagonisms between imperialist alliances and also between states within these alliances for control of markets, energy sources and transportation routes are intensifying creating danger of imperialist wars involving Eastern Mediterranean, Africa and Southeast Asia to the Arctic. In fact, a special place in these imperialist antagonisms is occupied by the Indo-Pacific region where the main sphere of interest of the imperialist alliances is shifted. The risk of a generalized imperialist war is deepening and expanding.

The recent war and developments in Ukraine show that Europe is not safe either. All those who believed that the wars were only taking place outside Europe are proved totally wrong. On the contrary, what is proving to be clear is that the causes of the wars lie in the overturn in the international balance of power, as formed in 1991 with the dissolution of the USSR and the overthrow of Socialism in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

Moreover, the arms race shows exactly this situation, with global military spending exceeding - for the first time in history - \$ 2 trillion in 2021. In fact, an indication of our times reveals the intensity of competition and military aggressiveness and the changes in the defense doctrines in a number of capitalist states (a typical example is Germany a few years ago, more recently Japan). At the same time, NATO is aggressively conspiring to bring under its fold the countries which been described as “neutral” for decades, such as Sweden and Finland. In fact, the relations of uneven interdependencies that characterize the imperialist system and govern the relations between all the capitalist states, are formed through a number of international and regional alliances, organizations and agreements that also indirectly reflect the correlation of power. In recent years, in addition to the most well-known organizations (e.g. UN, NATO, EU, OSCE, WTO, G7, G20), which are led by the US, new ones have emerged.

The wider changes that are taking place at the economic level reflect the changes in the web of the international imperialist groupings. Thus, notable is the US leadership considers the current composition of the Group of Seven most powerful capitalist states (USA, Japan, Canada, France, UK, Italy and Germany) are turning obsolete and that Australia, South Korea and India are being dragged into new anti-Chinese alliance. For example

AUKUS consisting of Australia-UK-US; QUAD composed of USA-Japan-Australia and India.

At the same time, the US government, utilizing the massive tax reduction for the capitalist class, is calling on US monopolies in new technologies operating in China to abandon it or return to the US, while making efforts to prevent China's expansion through the "New Silk Road" and its investments in third world countries. Sino-US competition is also what will determine future developments, with both sides trying to strengthen their own alliances.

Taking into consideration the international and regional big picture and keeping in view the foregoing facts, figures and formulations captured on the basis of the objective socio-politico-economic situation prevailing in the world, WFTU calls upon the working class and the militant trade union movement throughout the world to strengthen trade union organization, to intensify militant struggles of the working class, to resist the class onslaught of capitalism, to expose and defeat the machinations of imperialist forces.

The WFTU Congress, after discussion and open democratic dialogue, resolves the following immediate Priority Tasks.

THE WFTU TASKS

Going through the third decade of the 21st century and as we are about to celebrate WFTU's 80 years of life and action, the 18th Congress reaffirms the values of a class, democratic, internationalist and mass unionism with our tasks being:

1. The preservation and continuous strengthening of the unity of WFTU lines, which is fundamental so that our organization can continue playing its role as the most consistent and steadfast defender of workers' rights.
2. The safeguarding of the unity of the working class as a single, global, social class, in the struggle for social liberation from capitalist exploitation. In this struggle to overthrow capitalist slavery, the working class develops its broad social alliances with the peasants, the progressive intelligentsia and the self-employed.
3. The strengthening and deepening of the principles on which WFTU was founded upon, as a trade union organization that accepts and moves forward based on the principles of class struggle, democratic and trade union freedoms, for the defense of the right to organize and the right to strike. The WFTU follows and applies the values of democracy and direct contact with the workers, while respecting the operating principles of base trade unions.
4. The Right to Strike: WFTU recognizes the Right to Strike as a fundamental human right and is an essential part of Freedom of Association. The capitalist class at national, regional and international levels has taken an aggressive approach not only to violate this fundamental right but are actively trying to unarm workers and trade unions of this right. The WFTU will stand vehemently against these attacks and will defend the Right to Strike at all costs.
5. Internationalism and solidarity among all workers regardless of color, religion, gender, language and political preferences. In that, no employee and no sector can be left alone in its struggles and demands.
6. Since its foundation, WFTU has always been an anti-imperialist trade union movement, defending the right of every people to decide for itself, freely and democratically, on its present and future. WFTU condemns imperialist wars and imperialist interventions. It stands against Racism, Fascism and Xenophobia.
7. We promote in practice the equal participation of women and youth in the activities and operation of trade unions. We make sure they assume important positions of responsibility and we trust their role. We educate our members and leading Cadres to fight together, women and men, against socio-economic exploitation.

8. We want class-oriented, democratic, mass unions that will function as schools for social struggles for the emancipation of the working class. We want them to work collectively, always turning towards the base and the common worker. We want them to have a long-lasting and unwavering front against bureaucracy, elitism, careerism and corruption.

9. WFTU intervenes in international organizations in which it participates, promoting the positions of the class-oriented trade union movement and revealing the anti-labor character of organizations that violate their very own principles and reasons on which they were founded.

10. The entire organization of WFTU is dedicated on a daily basis to a constant action for improving the living standards of the toiling masses ensuring better wages, secured employment, social insurance, culture and intellect. The satisfaction of the workers' CONTEMPORARY NEEDS is an ongoing goal for every country, sector, region and trade union.

11. Today, with all the technological progress and accumulated wealth, the standard for contemporary needs must always be set high. New technologies and digitization must be utilized for the improvement of the workers' life and not for the increase of profits. These contemporary needs, according to the way the class-oriented trade union movement understands them, unquestionably include the right to free health, decent housing, access to clean water, the right to safe, reliable and cheap public transport, and free public education for all children.

The Contemporary Struggle of the Working Class

12. The capitalist mode of production, while sinking into crisis with its own contradictions, permanently seeks ways to maintain its hegemony. Given that the essence of its survival is marked by the appropriation of the wealth produced by the working class, the burden of the crisis always falls on the working class when the system enters into crisis.

13. Therefore, apart from its recurrent drops in rate of profit, especially from the 1970s onwards and the crises that followed, especially that of 2008/2009, the system accelerated a set of changes in the way, how and where to produce. Outsourcing, an intense technological and business increase, accompanied by a new division of labor marked by the dispersion of productive units, characterize the new era in the world of work.

14. In addition, seeking to weaken political resistance to this anti-workers attack, they are making labor legislation more flexible and deregulating the role of trade union representation. Overall, despite the large mobilizations, the result of this current stage is the precariousness of work and the awareness of a considerable part of our class.

15. The World Federation of Trade Unions and its affiliated Unions should not underestimate this new situation; on the contrary, they must study and confront with tactics and appropriate means, in particular, with the strengthening of political training and union work at the base.

In this context, the 18th Congress of the WFTU approves the following priority objectives for the next period:

Income - Wages - Remuneration

1. We support and demand unfettered collective bargaining and the signing of fair and just Collective Agreements for full-time, stable work, with dignified wages. Collective Agreements should govern every country and every sector, meeting the demands of the workers. For example and as a minimum requirement, the workers' income in every country must be at least twice as much as the poverty threshold.

A 35-hour working week with no reduction in salary

2. We are constantly fighting for a reduction in working hours and a simultaneous improvement in wag-

es. WFTU's position is for a 35-hour, 5-day week which is immediately necessary and realistic. The next step should be a 7-hour, 4-day week of full-time employment, without reducing wages. According to the situation in its own country, each union should struggle to further improve working hours and guarantee decent wages. This is the only way in which the working class and all workers in general will receive a share of the wealth produced by labour and the profits yielding from the explosive development of technology and science in the production process.

WFTU strongly opposes part-time or undeclared work, labor slavery and lay-offs. With the implementation of tele-work, flexible forms of employment are further promoted, working hours are increased and stable and permanent work with rights is being challenged. We propose to develop a broad campaign for a 35-hour working day with no reduction in salary and launch it next October 03, 2022.

Social Security

3. We demand public social security and pension for everyone, so that all workers in all sectors can enjoy full rights and insurance coverage. Undeclared and uninsured work constitutes a "casus belli" for the class-oriented trade union movement.

High Prices - Unemployment - Privatization

4. These are also the results of capitalist barbarity of the 'enemies' of the trade union movement and the workers. High prices affect poor people, unemployment is "the fifth column" within trade unions, and privatizations present monopolies and multinational companies the opportunity to lay off workers and attack their vested rights.

Privatizations lead to the sell-off of public wealth and give a great opportunity to the monopolies and multinational companies to lay off workers, to attack their rights and gains and to deprive workers of free and universal access to social goods. The fight against high prices, unemployment and privatizations must be high on the priority agenda of WFTU's day to day struggles.

Immigrants - Refugees

5. Imperialist wars create refugees and immigrants. The exploitation of the wealth of the Third World breeds poverty and immigration. One of the main priorities of the international militant trade union movement has always been the write-off of the foreign debt of Third World countries. At the same time, we defend the lives and rights of immigrants and refugees. We strongly oppose and fight racist and neo-fascist phenomena. For WFTU, the working class is united as a class.

Child Labor – Working during Pregnancy

6. Children should be at school, playing with their peers. Child labor should be banned in practice – not just in words. For pregnant women, the international rules governing maternity leave, lighter work and banning lay-offs, should be implemented.

7. Health and safety at the workplace are matters of great importance for WFTU, as the workers must return to their homes and families safe and sound. We focus on the establishment and operation of health and safety committees in the workplace. Addressing the environmental crisis is also of great importance to WFTU, as we believe that it is caused by the ruthless speculative action of monopolies and multinational cartels. Poor people are drowning, burned and killed because of the consequences of this crisis: floods, cold weather, fires, and earthquakes.

An immediate dissolution of NATO

8. WFTU opposes the waste of resources and money for military purposes. It also opposes the use of nuclear energy for military purposes and calls for an immediate dissolution of NATO.

9. We do not agree with the exclusions, discriminations, embargoes and sanctions imposed by the US, NATO and the EU against various countries, as they negatively impact the standard of living of low-income families, workers and poor, small farmers.

International Action Day of Trade Unions for Peace

10. The WFTU Congress declares the 1st of September be observed as 'International Action Day' of all trade unions for Peace. It is to recall that on 1st September 1939, Nazi Germany started the World War II.

11. Today again we are witnessing with serious concern the re-emergence of neo-Fascist and neo-Nazi forces posing real threat to the working class. It is imperative and need of the hour to mobilize peace loving people against imperialist war game for promoting and protecting peace. In this framework, the WFTU, its members and friends also celebrate and honor the 9th of May every year as the great day that marks the victory of the Peoples; the defeat of Hitler and the end of World War II.

A democratic and collective leadership system

12. The WFTU and all of its leading bodies function in a democratic and collective way; the Presidential Council, the TUIs, the Regional Offices, the Committees of Women, Youth, the Legal Committee etc coordinate their actions and initiatives in order to promote the workers' struggles and follow the central directions of the WFTU. The Regional Offices and the TUIs can cooperate and coordinate their action whenever they consider it necessary.

Political cadres committed to the struggle

13. WFTU is always alert and alive that we are judged by people for our action and effectiveness. All of our leading bodies, our cadres, all of us are watched by our class. We are committed without any compromise to fight for the cause of workers. Each cadre is being judged and tested primarily within his/her own country and sector. It is there that he or she will be tested whether he or she points out, promotes and supports the directions, positions and glorious banners of the WFTU.

Create an International Committee for Promotion & Protection of Trade Union Rights & Freedoms

14. Unable to rescue itself from the iron clutch of ever deepening systemic crisis of capitalism, the capitalist class has resorted to barbaric attack on the working class and trade union movement. They are promoting precarious employment, depriving job security, worsening working conditions and demolishing the rights of the workers, particularly Right to Organise, Right to Collective Bargaining and Right to Strike Action.

15. The monopolies, multinational companies and governments of the capitalist world utilize new technologies to restrict trade union formation and their free functioning as well as the democratic and individual freedoms of workers in society and in workplaces.

16. Nowadays technology driven onslaught of anti-worker surveillance and restrictions on free trade union and social action are added to the age old anti-trade union and anti-democratic cruel and violent repression by employers supplemented by state authoritarianism that even goes to the extent of organized murders of trade unionists.

17. The International Committee for the protection of trade union and democratic freedoms will gather evidence and present memorandums to International Organizations and will support the relevant initiatives of the leading bodies of the WFTU. It will also cooperate with the WFTU Legal Committee.

18. On the other hand, most employers do not apply all the necessary health and safety measures in the workplaces since they consider the health and safety of workers as a cost and that leads to occupational "accidents". The ILO estimates that some 2.3 million women and men around the world succumb to work-related accidents or diseases every year; this corresponds to over 6000 deaths every single day.

19. Worldwide, there are around 340 million occupational accidents and 160 million victims of work-related illnesses annually. The protection of workers inside the workplaces will also be among the tasks of the International Committee.

WFTU Funding

20. The WFTU is based on the fees of its affiliates and the support of its friends. It has no other resources. For this reason, the Congress calls on all affiliated organizations to pay their fees. The financial support strengthens the financial self-reliance and the organizational development of the WFTU.

An integrated WFTU communication system

21. The vast majority of media are controlled by multinational and monopoly interests. They are instruments and mechanisms of propaganda against the interests of workers and peoples. The militant unions must reveal the propaganda role of these media and at the same time find ways to get the truth and the real facts to the workers, taking advantage of all the possibilities of technology to break the monopoly of multinationals in information.

22. We decide that the WFTU Head Office should remain in Athens and that the location of the WFTU European Regional Office (EUROF) should be moved from Cyprus, where it was until now, to Italy.

**Adopted at the 18th Congress of WFTU
At Rome, Italy: 07th May, 2022**



Declaración de Roma

XVIII CONGRESO DE LA FSM

6-8 de Mayo, 2022, Roma, Italia

DECLARACIÓN DE ROMA

Caracterizado por múltiples rasgos únicos, el 18º Congreso de la Federación Sindical Mundial (FSM) celebrado en la ciudad capital de Roma, Italia, del 6 al 8 de mayo de 2022, ha sido un evento histórico de la clase obrera internacional.

Representando a 93 países, 430 delegados registrados participaron en el Congreso. 330 (77%) participaron físicamente mientras que 100 (23%) participaron virtualmente de todo el mundo.

De conformidad con la rica práctica de décadas y en adhesión al principio de la democracia de la clase obrera enunciado en la Constitución de la FSM, el Congreso ha elegido democráticamente a un Consejo Presidencial (PC) en el que nuevos cuadros han sido elegidos por primera vez.

El CP tiene representación de 50 países que representan a los cinco continentes. Los mismos porcentajes para el nuevo Secretariado y el nuevo Comité de Control Financiero son los siguientes: Países del Secretariado: 10, Países del CCF : 7

La composición de los delegados en el Congreso de Roma de la FSM será recordada por cuadros sindicales de base con espíritu de valentía obrera, convicción, sencillez, sacrificio y militancia clasista. El Congreso de Roma fue verdaderamente un Congreso obrero internacionalista, clasista, democrático, abierto, multicolor. Estas son lecciones aprendidas y enriquecidas en el curso de los largos setenta y seis años de luchas revolucionarias y de clase, conducidas por los afiliados y cuadros de la FSM en todo el mundo dirigidos por la dirección de la FSM contra la barbarie del capitalismo.

99 delegados tomaron la palabra. En el transcurso de las deliberaciones de los delegados, la imagen presentada representó las dificultades que nuestro movimiento ha venido enfrentando en sus países. El Congreso envió el mensaje una vez más de que toda lucha de clases, pequeña o grande, local, regional, nacional o internacional, es parte del sistema global de lucha obrera. La crítica y autocrítica constructivas, presentadas en varios discursos han enriquecido enormemente las deliberaciones. Esto, después de todo, muestra una característica genuinamente obrera que nos recuerda el papel inevitable de la vanguardia en el derrocamiento revolucionario del capitalismo bajo la dirección de la clase obrera.

Se constata con grave conmoción que nuestro Congreso se realizó en unas condiciones sociopolíticas inéditas para el accionar del movimiento sindical internacional, a la vez que fue llamado a superar dificultades que no habíamos enfrentado en el pasado. La pandemia del coronavirus ha arrebatado las preciosas vidas de muchos de nuestros hermanos y hermanas de clase en todo el mundo. Además, también ha obstaculizado la organización de nuestra conferencia: restricciones de viaje, aumento de los costos de viaje, carga sin precedentes para la infraestructura logística de la conferencia para permitir la participación digital de los delegados.

Además, los delegados tuvieron que hacer frente a las restricciones impuestas por las embajadas y las regulaciones burocráticas estatales. Estos son solo algunos de los factores desafiantes que nos impulsan a asegurar el éxito adecuado de nuestro Congreso a fin de preparar a nuestros cuadros para las grandes batallas clasistas que se avecinan. La combativa clase obrera encabezada por la FSM llevó a cabo una valiente batalla a pesar de las múltiples adversidades y dio una respuesta contundente a quienes quisieran ver un Congreso que no sería digno del tamaño e importancia de la FSM.

También es necesario señalar que el Congreso de la FSM se llevó a cabo en el contexto de peligrosos aconteci-

mientos geopolíticos y económicos internacionales. La profundidad cada vez más evidente de la crisis sistémica del capitalismo, que incluso los análisis burgueses no pueden ocultar, muestra una intensidad aún mayor de explotación de la clase obrera que infinge un mayor empobrecimiento, un aumento impactante del desempleo y el ataque de la clase capitalista a los logros obreros y democráticos, a las libertades y derechos sindicales.

Fiel a su deshonestidad de clase capitalista, la burguesía está tratando de engañar a la gente con una campaña orquestada que oculta la verdadera causa de la crisis. Están proyectando la Pandemia del Coronavirus como la única causa de la crisis. La pandemia puede haber contribuido en el momento y la profundidad de la crisis. Pero la causa básica radica en el propio sistema capitalista. Las verdaderas causas de esta crisis hay que buscarlas en las leyes del modo de producción capitalista, en el gran capital sobreacumulado que no pudo recapitalizarse ni reinvertirse, golpeando duramente a la clase capitalista en su avaricia ilimitada de ganancias.

Los gobiernos burgueses y los agentes de la burguesía en los EE. UU., la UE y Japón están realizando importantes intervenciones estatales para intentar reactivar la economía capitalista mediante la aplicación de una política fiscal expansiva. La verdad es, sin embargo, que ninguna maniobra capitalista puede abordar la crisis de manera sostenible. En el mejor de los casos, puede haber un respiro totalmente temporal que finalmente conduzca a una crisis más profunda.

Por otro lado, una vez más el peso de la crisis se está trasladando al hombro de los trabajadores. El pueblo está llamado a pagar los nuevos préstamos y a cargarse con el peso de todas las políticas antiobreras y antipopulares destinadas a reducir los salarios, imponer despidos masivos y aplastar los derechos de seguridad social. De hecho, en un principio estas medidas vienen como medidas de emergencia temporales pero luego se vuelven permanentes. Horriblemente, para el campo capitalista, sin embargo, la crisis es una oportunidad para impulsar notoriamente sus planes anti-obreros.

Tomemos, por ejemplo, el tema del llamado “crecimiento verde”, que está diseñado para imponer una carga financiera al pueblo ante la costosa electricidad, las llamadas relaciones laborales flexibles, los impuestos indirectos verdes y las nuevas cargas sobre las familias populares, de modo que el estado apoye nuevas inversiones verdes rentables de los magnates de los negocios.

Los antagonismos imperialistas entre alianzas imperialistas y también entre estados dentro de estas alianzas por el control de mercados, fuentes de energía y rutas de transporte se están intensificando creando el peligro de guerras imperialistas que involucran el Mediterráneo Oriental, África y el Sudeste Asiático hasta el Ártico. De hecho, un lugar especial en estos antagonismos imperialistas lo ocupa la región del Indo-Pacífico donde se desplaza la principal esfera de interés de las alianzas imperialistas. El riesgo de una guerra imperialista generalizada se profundiza y expande.

La guerra reciente y los acontecimientos en Ucrania muestran que Europa tampoco es segura. Todos aquellos que creían que las guerras sólo tenían lugar fuera de Europa están totalmente equivocados. Por el contrario, lo que está resultando claro es que las causas de las guerras radican en los derrocamientos del equilibrio de poder internacional, tal como se formó en 1991 con la disolución de la URSS y el derrocamiento del socialismo en los países de Europa Central y Oriental.

Además, la carrera armamentista muestra exactamente esta situación, con un gasto militar mundial que superó, por primera vez en la historia, los 2 billones de dólares en 2021. De hecho, un indicio de nuestro tiempo revela la intensidad de los antagonismos y la agresividad militar y los cambios en las doctrinas de defensa en una serie de estados capitalistas (un ejemplo típico es Alemania hace unos años, más recientemente Japón). Al mismo tiempo, la OTAN está conspirando agresivamente para atraer a los países que se han descrito como “neutrales” durante décadas, como Suecia y Finlandia.

De hecho, las relaciones de interdependencias desiguales que caracterizan al sistema imperialista y rigen las relaciones entre todos los estados capitalistas, se forman a través de una serie de alianzas, organizaciones y acuerdos internacionales y regionales que también reflejan indirectamente la correlación de poder. En los últimos

años, además de las organizaciones más conocidas (por ejemplo, la ONU, la OTAN, la UE, la OSCE, la OMC, el G7, el G20), que están lideradas por los EE. UU., han surgido otras nuevas.

Los cambios más amplios que están teniendo lugar a nivel económico reflejan los cambios en la red de las agrupaciones imperialistas internacionales. Así, llama la atención que la dirigencia estadounidense considere que la composición actual del Grupo de los Siete estados capitalistas más poderosos (EE.UU., Japón, Canadá, Francia, Reino Unido, Italia y Alemania) se está volviendo obsoleta y que Australia, Corea del Sur e India están siendo arrastradas a una nueva alianza anti-china. Por ejemplo AUKUS que consiste en Australia-Reino Unido-EEUU; QUAD compuesto por EEUU-Japón-Australia e India.

Al mismo tiempo, el gobierno de los EE. UU., utilizando la reducción masiva de impuestos para la clase capitalista, está llamando a los monopolios estadounidenses de nuevas tecnologías que operan en China a abandonarlo o regresar a los EE. UU., mientras hace esfuerzos para evitar la expansión de China a través de la “Nueva Ruta de la Seda” y sus inversiones en países del tercer mundo. La competencia chino-estadounidense también es lo que determinará los desarrollos futuros, con ambas partes tratando de fortalecer sus propias alianzas.

Tomando en consideración el panorama internacional y regional y teniendo en cuenta los hechos, cifras y formulaciones anteriores que expresa la base de la situación socio-política-económica objetiva que prevalece en el mundo, la FSM hace un llamado a la clase obrera y al movimiento sindical militante en todo el mundo para fortalecer la organización sindical, intensificar las luchas militantes de la clase obrera, resistir el ataque de la burguesía, exponer y derrotar las maquinaciones de las fuerzas imperialistas.

El Congreso de la FSM, luego de la discusión y diálogo democrático abierto, resuelve las siguientes Tareas Prioritarias inmediatas.

LAS TAREAS DE LA FSM

Atravesando la tercera década del siglo XXI y a punto de celebrar los 80 años de vida y acción de la FSM, el XVIII Congreso reafirma los valores de un sindicalismo de clase, democrático, internacionalista y de masas, mientras que nuestras tareas inmediatas son:

1. La preservación y el fortalecimiento continuo de la unidad de líneas de la FSM, que es fundamental para que nuestra organización pueda seguir desempeñando su papel como la más consecuente y firme defensora de los derechos obreros.
2. La salvaguardia de la unidad de la clase obrera como clase social única, global, en la lucha por la liberación social de la explotación capitalista. En esta lucha por derrocar la esclavitud capitalista, la clase obrera desarrolla sus amplias alianzas sociales con los campesinos, la intelectualidad progresista y los cuentapropistas.
3. El fortalecimiento y profundización de los principios sobre los que se fundó la FSM, como organización sindical que asume y avanza con base en los principios de la lucha de clases, libertades democráticas y sindicales, por la defensa del derecho de sindicación y la derecho a la huelga. La FSM sigue y aplica los valores de la democracia y el contacto directo con los trabajadores, respetando los principios de funcionamiento de los sindicatos de base.
4. El derecho de huelga: La FSM reconoce el Derecho de Huelga como un derecho humano fundamental y como una parte esencial de la Libertad Sindical. La burguesía a nivel nacional, regional e internacional ha adoptado un enfoque agresivo no solo para violar este derecho fundamental, sino que también está tratando activamente de desarmar a los trabajadores y sindicatos de este derecho. La FSM se opondrá con vehemencia a estos ataques y defenderá el Derecho de Huelga a toda costa.
5. El Internacionalismo y solidaridad entre todos los trabajadores sin distinción de color de piel, religión,

género, idioma y preferencias políticas. En eso, ningún trabajador y ningún sector debe quedarse solo en sus luchas y reivindicaciones.

6. Desde su fundación, la FSM ha sido siempre un movimiento sindical antiimperialista, defensor del derecho de todo pueblo a decidir por sí mismo, libre y democráticamente, sobre su presente y futuro. La FSM condena las guerras imperialistas y las intervenciones imperialistas. Se opone al racismo, el fascismo y la xenofobia.

7. Promovemos en la práctica la participación igualitaria de mujeres y jóvenes en las actividades y funcionamiento de los sindicatos. Nos aseguramos de que asuman importantes cargos de responsabilidad y confiamos en su papel. Educamos a nuestros miembros y cuadros dirigentes para luchar juntos, mujeres y hombres, contra la explotación socioeconómica.

8. Queremos sindicatos de masas, democráticos y clasistas que funcionen como escuelas de lucha social por la emancipación de la clase obrera. Queremos que trabajen colectivamente, siempre dirigiéndose hacia la base y el trabajador sencillo. Queremos que tengan un frente duradero e inquebrantable contra la burocracia, el elitismo, el arribismo y la corrupción.

9. La FSM interviene en las organizaciones internacionales en las que participa, promoviendo las posiciones del movimiento sindical clasista y revelando el carácter antiobrero de las organizaciones que violan los propios principios y razones en que fueron fundadas.

10. Toda la organización de la FSM se dedica diariamente a una acción constante para mejorar el nivel de vida de las masas trabajadoras asegurando mejores salarios, empleo seguro, seguridad social, cultura e intelecto. La satisfacción de las NECESIDADES CONTEMPORÁNEAS de los trabajadores es una meta permanente para cada país, sector, región y sindicato.

11. Hoy, con todo el progreso tecnológico y la riqueza acumulada, el estándar para las necesidades contemporáneas siempre debe ser alto. Las nuevas tecnologías y la digitalización deben ser utilizadas para la mejora de la vida de los trabajadores y no para el aumento de las ganancias. Estas necesidades contemporáneas, según las entiende el movimiento sindical clasista, incluyen incuestionablemente el derecho a la salud gratuita, a la vivienda digna, al acceso al agua limpia, al transporte público seguro, confiable y barato, y a la educación pública gratuita para todos los niños.

[La lucha contemporánea de la clase obrera](#)

12. El modo de producción capitalista, mientras se hunde en crisis con sus propias contradicciones, busca permanentemente formas de mantener su hegemonía. Dado que la esencia de su supervivencia está marcada por la apropiación de la riqueza producida por la clase obrera, el peso de la crisis siempre recae sobre la clase obrera cuando el sistema entra en crisis.

13. Por lo tanto, además de sus caídas recurrentes en la tasa de ganancia, especialmente a partir de la década de 1970 y las crisis que siguieron- sobre todo la de 2008/2009- el sistema aceleró un conjunto de cambios en la forma, cómo y dónde producir. La externalización, un intenso auge tecnológico y aumento de empresas, acompañado de una nueva división del trabajo marcada por la dispersión de las unidades productivas, caracterizan la nueva era en el mundo del trabajo.

14. Además, buscando debilitar la resistencia política a este ataque antiobrero, flexibilizan la legislación laboral y desregulan el papel de la representación sindical. En general, a pesar de las grandes movilizaciones, el resultado de esta etapa actual es la precariedad del trabajo y la concientización de una parte considerable de nuestra clase.

15. La Federación Sindical Mundial y sus sindicatos afiliados no deben subestimar esta nueva situación;

por el contrario, deben estudiarlo y confrontarlo con tácticas y medios adecuados, en particular, con el fortalecimiento de la formación política y el trabajo sindical en la base.

En este contexto, el 18º Congreso de la FSM aprueba los siguientes objetivos prioritarios para el próximo período:

Ingresos - Salarios - Remuneración

1. Apoyamos y exigimos la negociación colectiva sin trabas y la firma de Convenios Colectivos justos y equitativos para un trabajo estable, a tiempo completo y con salarios dignos. Los Convenios Colectivos deben regir todos los países y todos los sectores, atendiendo las demandas de los trabajadores. Por ejemplo y como requisito mínimo, los ingresos de los trabajadores en todos los países deben ser al menos el doble del umbral de pobreza.

Semana laboral de 35 horas sin reducción de salario

2. Luchamos constantemente por una reducción de la jornada laboral y una mejora simultánea de los salarios. La posición de la FSM es por una semana de 35 horas y 5 días, que es inmediatamente necesaria y realista. El siguiente paso debería ser una semana de 7 horas y 4 días de empleo a tiempo completo, sin reducir los salarios. En función con la situación en su propio país, cada sindicato debe luchar para mejorar aún más el horario de trabajo y garantizar salarios dignos. Esta es la única forma en que la clase obrera y todos los trabajadores en general recibirán una parte de la riqueza producida por el trabajo y las ganancias que arroja el desarrollo explosivo de la tecnología y la ciencia en el proceso de producción.

La FSM se opone firmemente al trabajo a tiempo parcial o no declarado, la esclavitud laboral y los despidos. Con la implementación del teletrabajo se promueven aún más las formas flexibles de empleo, se incrementa la jornada laboral y se cuestiona el trabajo estable y permanente con derechos. Proponemos desarrollar una campaña amplia por la jornada laboral de 35 horas sin reducción de salario y lanzarla el próximo 03 de octubre de 2022.

Seguridad social

3. Exigimos seguridad social pública y pensión para todos, para que todos los trabajadores de todos los sectores puedan gozar de plenos derechos y cobertura de seguro. El trabajo no declarado y no asegurado constituye un “casus belli” para el movimiento sindical clasista.

Precios altos - Desempleo - Privatizaciones

4. Estos son también los resultados de la barbarie capitalista de los “enemigos” del movimiento sindical y de los trabajadores. Los precios altos afectan a los pobres, el desempleo es “la quinta columna” dentro de los sindicatos y las privatizaciones ofrecen a los monopolios y las empresas multinacionales la oportunidad de despedir trabajadores y atacar sus derechos adquiridos.

Las privatizaciones conducen a la venta de la riqueza pública y ofrecen una gran oportunidad a los monopolios y empresas multinacionales para despedir trabajadores, atacar sus derechos y logros, privando a los trabajadores del acceso gratuito y universal a los bienes sociales. La lucha contra los altos precios, el desempleo y las privatizaciones debe ocupar un lugar destacado en la agenda prioritaria de las luchas cotidianas de la FSM.

Inmigrantes - Refugiados

5. Las guerras imperialistas crean refugiados e inmigrantes. La explotación de las riquezas del Tercer Mundo engendra pobreza e inmigración. Una de las principales prioridades del movimiento sindical militante internacional siempre ha sido la cancelación de la deuda externa de los países del Tercer Mundo. Al mismo

tiempo, defendemos la vida y los derechos de las personas inmigrantes y refugiadas. Nos oponemos y combatimos enérgicamente los fenómenos racistas y neofascistas. Para la FSM, la clase obrera está unida como clase.

Trabajo infantil - Trabajo durante el embarazo

6. Los niños deben estar en la escuela, jugando con sus amigos. El trabajo infantil debe prohibirse en la práctica, no solo de palabra. Para las mujeres embarazadas, se deben implementar las normas internacionales que rigen la licencia de maternidad, el trabajo más ligero y la prohibición de los despidos.

7. La salud y la seguridad en el trabajo son asuntos de gran importancia para la FSM, ya que los trabajadores deben regresar sanos y salvos a sus hogares y familias. Nos enfocamos en el establecimiento y funcionamiento de comités de seguridad y salud en el trabajo. Abordar la crisis ambiental también es de gran importancia para la FSM, ya que creemos que es causada por la acción especulativa despiadada de los monopolios y carteles multinacionales. Los pobres se están ahogando, quemando y matando debido a las consecuencias de esta crisis: inundaciones, clima frío, incendios y terremotos.

Una disolución inmediata de la OTAN

8. La FSM se opone al despilfarro de recursos y dinero con fines militares. También se opone al uso de la energía nuclear con fines militares y pide la disolución inmediata de la OTAN.

9. No estamos de acuerdo con las exclusiones, discriminaciones, bloqueos y sanciones impuestas por los EE. UU., la OTAN y la UE contra varios países, ya que impactan negativamente en el nivel de vida de las familias de bajos ingresos, los trabajadores y los pequeños campesinos pobres.

Día Internacional de Acción de los Sindicatos por la Paz

10. El Congreso de la FSM declara el 1 de septiembre como “Día de Acción Internacional” de todos los sindicatos por la Paz. Es de recordar que el 1 de septiembre de 1939, la Alemania nazi inició la Segunda Guerra Mundial.

11. Hoy nuevamente estamos presenciando con grave preocupación el resurgimiento de fuerzas neo-fascistas y neonazis que representan una amenaza real para la clase obrera. Es imperativo y la necesidad del momento movilizar a las personas amantes de la paz contra el juego de guerra imperialista para promover y proteger la paz. En este marco, la FSM, sus miembros y amigos también celebran y conmemoran el 9 de mayo de cada año como el gran día que marca la victoria de los Pueblos; la derrota de Hitler y el final de la Segunda Guerra Mundial.

Un sistema de liderazgo democrático y colectivo

12. La FSM y todos sus órganos directivos funcionan de forma democrática y colectiva; el Consejo Presidencial, las UIS, las Oficinas Regionales, los Comités de Mujeres, Jóvenes, el Comité de Asesoría Jurídica, etc. coordinan sus acciones e iniciativas para promover las luchas de los trabajadores y seguir las direcciones centrales de la FSM. Las Oficinas Regionales y las UIS pueden cooperar y coordinar su actuación siempre que lo consideren necesario.

Cuadros políticos comprometidos con la lucha

13. La FSM siempre está alerta y viva de que somos juzgados por la gente por nuestra acción y eficacia. Todos nuestros órganos directivos, nuestros cuadros, todos somos observados por nuestra clase. Estamos comprometidos sin concesiones a luchar por la causa de los trabajadores. Cada cuadro está siendo juzgado y probado principalmente dentro de su propio país y sector. Es allí donde se pondrá a prueba si hace notar, promueve y apoya las direcciones, posiciones y banderas gloriosas de la FSM.

Armar un Comité Internacional para la Promoción y Protección de los Derechos y Libertades Sindicales

14. Incapaz de rescatarse a sí misma de las garras de hierro de la cada vez más profunda crisis sistémica del capitalismo, la burguesía ha recurrido al ataque bárbaro contra la clase obrera y el movimiento sindical: están fomentando el empleo precario, privando de la seguridad laboral, empeorando las condiciones de trabajo y demoliendo los derechos obreros, en particular el Derecho de Sindicación, el Derecho de Negociación Colectiva y el Derecho de Huelga.

15. Los monopolios, las empresas multinacionales y los gobiernos del mundo capitalista utilizan las nuevas tecnologías para restringir la formación de sindicatos y su libre funcionamiento así como las libertades democráticas e individuales de los trabajadores en la sociedad y en los lugares de trabajo.

16. Hoy en día, la embestida anti-obra de la supervisión impulsada por la tecnología y las restricciones a la acción sindical y social libre se suman a la antigua práctica antisindical y antidemocrática de la represión cruel y violenta por parte de los empresarios, complementada con un autoritarismo estatal que llega hasta el punto de asesinar de manera organizada a sindicalistas.

17. El Comité Internacional para la protección de las libertades sindicales y democráticas reunirá pruebas y presentará memorandos a las Organizaciones Internacionales, apoyando las iniciativas pertinentes de los órganos directivos de la FSM. También cooperará con el Comité de Asesoría Jurídica de la FSM.

18. Por otro lado, la mayoría de los empleadores no aplican todas las medidas necesarias de salud y seguridad en los lugares de trabajo ya que consideran la salud y seguridad de los trabajadores como un costo; eso es lo que genera los “accidentes” laborales. La OIT estima que unos 2,3 millones de mujeres y hombres en todo el mundo sucumben a accidentes o enfermedades relacionadas con el trabajo cada año; esto corresponde a más de 6000 muertes cada día.

19. En todo el mundo se producen anualmente alrededor de 340 millones de accidentes laborales y 160 millones de víctimas de enfermedades relacionadas con el trabajo. La protección de los trabajadores dentro de los lugares de trabajo también estará entre las tareas del Comité Internacional.

Finanzas de la FSM

20. La FSM se basa en las cuotas de sus afiliados y el apoyo de sus amigos. No tiene otros recursos. Por esta razón, el Congreso hace un llamado a todas las organizaciones afiliadas para que paguen sus cuotas. El apoyo financiero fortalece la autosuficiencia financiera y el desarrollo organizativo de la FSM.

Un sistema integrado de comunicación de la FSM

21. La gran mayoría de los medios están controlados por los intereses de las multinacionales y los monopolios. Son instrumentos y mecanismos de propaganda contra los intereses de los trabajadores y los pueblos. Los sindicatos militantes deben desenmascarar el papel propagandístico de estos medios y al mismo tiempo encontrar formas de hacer llegar la verdad y los hechos reales a los trabajadores, aprovechando todas las posibilidades de la tecnología para romper el monopolio de las multinacionales en la información.

22. Decidimos que la Sede Central de la FSM permanezca en Atenas y que la ubicación de la Oficina Regional Europea de la FSM (EUROF) se traslade de Chipre, donde estaba hasta ahora, a Italia.



Déclaration de Rome

XVIII CONGRESO DE LA FSM

6-8 de Mayo, 2022, Roma, Italia

DECLARACIÓN DE ROMA

Caracterizado por múltiples rasgos únicos, el 18º Congreso de la Federación Sindical Mundial (FSM) celebrado en la ciudad capital de Roma, Italia, del 6 al 8 de mayo de 2022, ha sido un evento histórico de la clase obrera internacional.

Representando a 93 países, 430 delegados registrados participaron en el Congreso. 330 (77%) participaron físicamente mientras que 100 (23%) participaron virtualmente de todo el mundo.

De conformidad con la rica práctica de décadas y en adhesión al principio de la democracia de la clase obrera enunciado en la Constitución de la FSM, el Congreso ha elegido democráticamente a un Consejo Presidencial (PC) en el que nuevos cuadros han sido elegidos por primera vez.

El CP tiene representación de 50 países que representan a los cinco continentes. Los mismos porcentajes para el nuevo Secretariado y el nuevo Comité de Control Financiero son los siguientes: Países del Secretariado: 10, Países del CCF : 7

La composición de los delegados en el Congreso de Roma de la FSM será recordada por cuadros sindicales de base con espíritu de valentía obrera, convicción, sencillez, sacrificio y militancia clasista. El Congreso de Roma fue verdaderamente un Congreso obrero internacionalista, clasista, democrático, abierto, multicolor. Estas son lecciones aprendidas y enriquecidas en el curso de los largos setenta y seis años de luchas revolucionarias y de clase, conducidas por los afiliados y cuadros de la FSM en todo el mundo dirigidos por la dirección de la FSM contra la barbarie del capitalismo.

99 delegados tomaron la palabra. En el transcurso de las deliberaciones de los delegados, la imagen presentada representó las dificultades que nuestro movimiento ha venido enfrentando en sus países. El Congreso envió el mensaje una vez más de que toda lucha de clases, pequeña o grande, local, regional, nacional o internacional, es parte del sistema global de lucha obrera. La crítica y autocrítica constructivas, presentadas en varios discursos han enriquecido enormemente las deliberaciones. Esto, después de todo, muestra una característica genuinamente obrera que nos recuerda el papel inevitable de la vanguardia en el derrocamiento revolucionario del capitalismo bajo la dirección de la clase obrera.

Se constata con grave conmoción que nuestro Congreso se realizó en unas condiciones sociopolíticas inéditas para el accionar del movimiento sindical internacional, a la vez que fue llamado a superar dificultades que no habíamos enfrentado en el pasado. La pandemia del coronavirus ha arrebatado las preciosas vidas de muchos de nuestros hermanos y hermanas de clase en todo el mundo. Además, también ha obstaculizado la organización de nuestra conferencia: restricciones de viaje, aumento de los costos de viaje, carga sin precedentes para la infraestructura logística de la conferencia para permitir la participación digital de los delegados.

Además, los delegados tuvieron que hacer frente a las restricciones impuestas por las embajadas y las regulaciones burocráticas estatales. Estos son solo algunos de los factores desafiantes que nos impulsan a asegurar el éxito adecuado de nuestro Congreso a fin de preparar a nuestros cuadros para las grandes batallas clasistas que se avecinan. La combativa clase obrera encabezada por la FSM llevó a cabo una valiente batalla a pesar de las múltiples adversidades y dio una respuesta contundente a quienes quisieran ver un Congreso que no sería digno del tamaño e importancia de la FSM.

También es necesario señalar que el Congreso de la FSM se llevó a cabo en el contexto de peligrosos aconteci-

mientos geopolíticos y económicos internacionales. La profundidad cada vez más evidente de la crisis sistémica del capitalismo, que incluso los análisis burgueses no pueden ocultar, muestra una intensidad aún mayor de explotación de la clase obrera que infinge un mayor empobrecimiento, un aumento impactante del desempleo y el ataque de la clase capitalista a los logros obreros y democráticos, a las libertades y derechos sindicales.

Fiel a su deshonestidad de clase capitalista, la burguesía está tratando de engañar a la gente con una campaña orquestada que oculta la verdadera causa de la crisis. Están proyectando la Pandemia del Coronavirus como la única causa de la crisis. La pandemia puede haber contribuido en el momento y la profundidad de la crisis. Pero la causa básica radica en el propio sistema capitalista. Las verdaderas causas de esta crisis hay que buscarlas en las leyes del modo de producción capitalista, en el gran capital sobreacumulado que no pudo recapitalizarse ni reinvertirse, golpeando duramente a la clase capitalista en su avaricia ilimitada de ganancias.

Los gobiernos burgueses y los agentes de la burguesía en los EE. UU., la UE y Japón están realizando importantes intervenciones estatales para intentar reactivar la economía capitalista mediante la aplicación de una política fiscal expansiva. La verdad es, sin embargo, que ninguna maniobra capitalista puede abordar la crisis de manera sostenible. En el mejor de los casos, puede haber un respiro totalmente temporal que finalmente conduzca a una crisis más profunda.

Por otro lado, una vez más el peso de la crisis se está trasladando al hombro de los trabajadores. El pueblo está llamado a pagar los nuevos préstamos y a cargarse con el peso de todas las políticas antiobreras y antipopulares destinadas a reducir los salarios, imponer despidos masivos y aplastar los derechos de seguridad social. De hecho, en un principio estas medidas vienen como medidas de emergencia temporales pero luego se vuelven permanentes. Horriblemente, para el campo capitalista, sin embargo, la crisis es una oportunidad para impulsar notoriamente sus planes anti-obreros.

Tomemos, por ejemplo, el tema del llamado “crecimiento verde”, que está diseñado para imponer una carga financiera al pueblo ante la costosa electricidad, las llamadas relaciones laborales flexibles, los impuestos indirectos verdes y las nuevas cargas sobre las familias populares, de modo que el estado apoye nuevas inversiones verdes rentables de los magnates de los negocios.

Los antagonismos imperialistas entre alianzas imperialistas y también entre estados dentro de estas alianzas por el control de mercados, fuentes de energía y rutas de transporte se están intensificando creando el peligro de guerras imperialistas que involucran el Mediterráneo Oriental, África y el Sudeste Asiático hasta el Ártico. De hecho, un lugar especial en estos antagonismos imperialistas lo ocupa la región del Indo-Pacífico donde se desplaza la principal esfera de interés de las alianzas imperialistas. El riesgo de una guerra imperialista generalizada se profundiza y expande.

La guerra reciente y los acontecimientos en Ucrania muestran que Europa tampoco es segura. Todos aquellos que creían que las guerras sólo tenían lugar fuera de Europa están totalmente equivocados. Por el contrario, lo que está resultando claro es que las causas de las guerras radican en los derrocamientos del equilibrio de poder internacional, tal como se formó en 1991 con la disolución de la URSS y el derrocamiento del socialismo en los países de Europa Central y Oriental.

Además, la carrera armamentista muestra exactamente esta situación, con un gasto militar mundial que superó, por primera vez en la historia, los 2 billones de dólares en 2021. De hecho, un indicio de nuestro tiempo revela la intensidad de los antagonismos y la agresividad militar y los cambios en las doctrinas de defensa en una serie de estados capitalistas (un ejemplo típico es Alemania hace unos años, más recientemente Japón). Al mismo tiempo, la OTAN está conspirando agresivamente para atraer a los países que se han descrito como “neutrales” durante décadas, como Suecia y Finlandia.

De hecho, las relaciones de interdependencias desiguales que caracterizan al sistema imperialista y rigen las relaciones entre todos los estados capitalistas, se forman a través de una serie de alianzas, organizaciones y acuerdos internacionales y regionales que también reflejan indirectamente la correlación de poder. En los últimos

años, además de las organizaciones más conocidas (por ejemplo, la ONU, la OTAN, la UE, la OSCE, la OMC, el G7, el G20), que están lideradas por los EE. UU., han surgido otras nuevas.

Los cambios más amplios que están teniendo lugar a nivel económico reflejan los cambios en la red de las agrupaciones imperialistas internacionales. Así, llama la atención que la dirigencia estadounidense considere que la composición actual del Grupo de los Siete estados capitalistas más poderosos (EE.UU., Japón, Canadá, Francia, Reino Unido, Italia y Alemania) se está volviendo obsoleta y que Australia, Corea del Sur e India están siendo arrastradas a una nueva alianza anti-china. Por ejemplo AUKUS que consiste en Australia-Reino Unido-EEUU; QUAD compuesto por EEUU-Japón-Australia e India.

Al mismo tiempo, el gobierno de los EE. UU., utilizando la reducción masiva de impuestos para la clase capitalista, está llamando a los monopolios estadounidenses de nuevas tecnologías que operan en China a abandonarlo o regresar a los EE. UU., mientras hace esfuerzos para evitar la expansión de China a través de la “Nueva Ruta de la Seda” y sus inversiones en países del tercer mundo. La competencia chino-estadounidense también es lo que determinará los desarrollos futuros, con ambas partes tratando de fortalecer sus propias alianzas.

Tomando en consideración el panorama internacional y regional y teniendo en cuenta los hechos, cifras y formulaciones anteriores que expresa la base de la situación socio-política-económica objetiva que prevalece en el mundo, la FSM hace un llamado a la clase obrera y al movimiento sindical militante en todo el mundo para fortalecer la organización sindical, intensificar las luchas militantes de la clase obrera, resistir el ataque de la burguesía, exponer y derrotar las maquinaciones de las fuerzas imperialistas.

El Congreso de la FSM, luego de la discusión y diálogo democrático abierto, resuelve las siguientes Tareas Prioritarias inmediatas.

LAS TAREAS DE LA FSM

Atravesando la tercera década del siglo XXI y a punto de celebrar los 80 años de vida y acción de la FSM, el XVIII Congreso reafirma los valores de un sindicalismo de clase, democrático, internacionalista y de masas, mientras que nuestras tareas inmediatas son:

1. La preservación y el fortalecimiento continuo de la unidad de líneas de la FSM, que es fundamental para que nuestra organización pueda seguir desempeñando su papel como la más consecuente y firme defensora de los derechos obreros.
2. La salvaguardia de la unidad de la clase obrera como clase social única, global, en la lucha por la liberación social de la explotación capitalista. En esta lucha por derrocar la esclavitud capitalista, la clase obrera desarrolla sus amplias alianzas sociales con los campesinos, la intelectualidad progresista y los cuentapropistas.
3. El fortalecimiento y profundización de los principios sobre los que se fundó la FSM, como organización sindical que asume y avanza con base en los principios de la lucha de clases, libertades democráticas y sindicales, por la defensa del derecho de sindicación y la derecho a la huelga. La FSM sigue y aplica los valores de la democracia y el contacto directo con los trabajadores, respetando los principios de funcionamiento de los sindicatos de base.
4. El derecho de huelga: La FSM reconoce el Derecho de Huelga como un derecho humano fundamental y como una parte esencial de la Libertad Sindical. La burguesía a nivel nacional, regional e internacional ha adoptado un enfoque agresivo no solo para violar este derecho fundamental, sino que también está tratando activamente de desarmar a los trabajadores y sindicatos de este derecho. La FSM se opondrá con vehemencia a estos ataques y defenderá el Derecho de Huelga a toda costa.
5. El Internacionalismo y solidaridad entre todos los trabajadores sin distinción de color de piel, religión,

género, idioma y preferencias políticas. En eso, ningún trabajador y ningún sector debe quedarse solo en sus luchas y reivindicaciones.

6. Desde su fundación, la FSM ha sido siempre un movimiento sindical antiimperialista, defensor del derecho de todo pueblo a decidir por sí mismo, libre y democráticamente, sobre su presente y futuro. La FSM condena las guerras imperialistas y las intervenciones imperialistas. Se opone al racismo, el fascismo y la xenofobia.

7. Promovemos en la práctica la participación igualitaria de mujeres y jóvenes en las actividades y funcionamiento de los sindicatos. Nos aseguramos de que asuman importantes cargos de responsabilidad y confiamos en su papel. Educamos a nuestros miembros y cuadros dirigentes para luchar juntos, mujeres y hombres, contra la explotación socioeconómica.

8. Queremos sindicatos de masas, democráticos y clasistas que funcionen como escuelas de lucha social por la emancipación de la clase obrera. Queremos que trabajen colectivamente, siempre dirigiéndose hacia la base y el trabajador sencillo. Queremos que tengan un frente duradero e inquebrantable contra la burocracia, el elitismo, el arribismo y la corrupción.

9. La FSM interviene en las organizaciones internacionales en las que participa, promoviendo las posiciones del movimiento sindical clasista y revelando el carácter antiobrero de las organizaciones que violan los propios principios y razones en que fueron fundadas.

10. Toda la organización de la FSM se dedica diariamente a una acción constante para mejorar el nivel de vida de las masas trabajadoras asegurando mejores salarios, empleo seguro, seguridad social, cultura e intelecto. La satisfacción de las NECESIDADES CONTEMPORÁNEAS de los trabajadores es una meta permanente para cada país, sector, región y sindicato.

11. Hoy, con todo el progreso tecnológico y la riqueza acumulada, el estándar para las necesidades contemporáneas siempre debe ser alto. Las nuevas tecnologías y la digitalización deben ser utilizadas para la mejora de la vida de los trabajadores y no para el aumento de las ganancias. Estas necesidades contemporáneas, según las entiende el movimiento sindical clasista, incluyen incuestionablemente el derecho a la salud gratuita, a la vivienda digna, al acceso al agua limpia, al transporte público seguro, confiable y barato, y a la educación pública gratuita para todos los niños.

[La lucha contemporánea de la clase obrera](#)

12. El modo de producción capitalista, mientras se hunde en crisis con sus propias contradicciones, busca permanentemente formas de mantener su hegemonía. Dado que la esencia de su supervivencia está marcada por la apropiación de la riqueza producida por la clase obrera, el peso de la crisis siempre recae sobre la clase obrera cuando el sistema entra en crisis.

13. Por lo tanto, además de sus caídas recurrentes en la tasa de ganancia, especialmente a partir de la década de 1970 y las crisis que siguieron- sobre todo la de 2008/2009- el sistema aceleró un conjunto de cambios en la forma, cómo y dónde producir. La externalización, un intenso auge tecnológico y aumento de empresas, acompañado de una nueva división del trabajo marcada por la dispersión de las unidades productivas, caracterizan la nueva era en el mundo del trabajo.

14. Además, buscando debilitar la resistencia política a este ataque antiobrero, flexibilizan la legislación laboral y desregulan el papel de la representación sindical. En general, a pesar de las grandes movilizaciones, el resultado de esta etapa actual es la precariedad del trabajo y la concientización de una parte considerable de nuestra clase.

15. La Federación Sindical Mundial y sus sindicatos afiliados no deben subestimar esta nueva situación;

por el contrario, deben estudiarlo y confrontarlo con tácticas y medios adecuados, en particular, con el fortalecimiento de la formación política y el trabajo sindical en la base.

En este contexto, el 18º Congreso de la FSM aprueba los siguientes objetivos prioritarios para el próximo período:

Ingresos - Salarios - Remuneración

1. Apoyamos y exigimos la negociación colectiva sin trabas y la firma de Convenios Colectivos justos y equitativos para un trabajo estable, a tiempo completo y con salarios dignos. Los Convenios Colectivos deben regir todos los países y todos los sectores, atendiendo las demandas de los trabajadores. Por ejemplo y como requisito mínimo, los ingresos de los trabajadores en todos los países deben ser al menos el doble del umbral de pobreza.

Semana laboral de 35 horas sin reducción de salario

2. Luchamos constantemente por una reducción de la jornada laboral y una mejora simultánea de los salarios. La posición de la FSM es por una semana de 35 horas y 5 días, que es inmediatamente necesaria y realista. El siguiente paso debería ser una semana de 7 horas y 4 días de empleo a tiempo completo, sin reducir los salarios. En función con la situación en su propio país, cada sindicato debe luchar para mejorar aún más el horario de trabajo y garantizar salarios dignos. Esta es la única forma en que la clase obrera y todos los trabajadores en general recibirán una parte de la riqueza producida por el trabajo y las ganancias que arroja el desarrollo explosivo de la tecnología y la ciencia en el proceso de producción.

La FSM se opone firmemente al trabajo a tiempo parcial o no declarado, la esclavitud laboral y los despidos. Con la implementación del teletrabajo se promueven aún más las formas flexibles de empleo, se incrementa la jornada laboral y se cuestiona el trabajo estable y permanente con derechos. Proponemos desarrollar una campaña amplia por la jornada laboral de 35 horas sin reducción de salario y lanzarla el próximo 03 de octubre de 2022.

Seguridad social

3. Exigimos seguridad social pública y pensión para todos, para que todos los trabajadores de todos los sectores puedan gozar de plenos derechos y cobertura de seguro. El trabajo no declarado y no asegurado constituye un “casus belli” para el movimiento sindical clasista.

Precios altos - Desempleo - Privatizaciones

4. Estos son también los resultados de la barbarie capitalista de los “enemigos” del movimiento sindical y de los trabajadores. Los precios altos afectan a los pobres, el desempleo es “la quinta columna” dentro de los sindicatos y las privatizaciones ofrecen a los monopolios y las empresas multinacionales la oportunidad de despedir trabajadores y atacar sus derechos adquiridos.

Las privatizaciones conducen a la venta de la riqueza pública y ofrecen una gran oportunidad a los monopolios y empresas multinacionales para despedir trabajadores, atacar sus derechos y logros, privando a los trabajadores del acceso gratuito y universal a los bienes sociales. La lucha contra los altos precios, el desempleo y las privatizaciones debe ocupar un lugar destacado en la agenda prioritaria de las luchas cotidianas de la FSM.

Inmigrantes - Refugiados

5. Las guerras imperialistas crean refugiados e inmigrantes. La explotación de las riquezas del Tercer Mundo engendra pobreza e inmigración. Una de las principales prioridades del movimiento sindical militante internacional siempre ha sido la cancelación de la deuda externa de los países del Tercer Mundo. Al mismo

tiempo, defendemos la vida y los derechos de las personas inmigrantes y refugiadas. Nos oponemos y combatimos enérgicamente los fenómenos racistas y neofascistas. Para la FSM, la clase obrera está unida como clase.

Trabajo infantil - Trabajo durante el embarazo

6. Los niños deben estar en la escuela, jugando con sus amigos. El trabajo infantil debe prohibirse en la práctica, no solo de palabra. Para las mujeres embarazadas, se deben implementar las normas internacionales que rigen la licencia de maternidad, el trabajo más ligero y la prohibición de los despidos.

7. La salud y la seguridad en el trabajo son asuntos de gran importancia para la FSM, ya que los trabajadores deben regresar sanos y salvos a sus hogares y familias. Nos enfocamos en el establecimiento y funcionamiento de comités de seguridad y salud en el trabajo. Abordar la crisis ambiental también es de gran importancia para la FSM, ya que creemos que es causada por la acción especulativa despiadada de los monopolios y carteles multinacionales. Los pobres se están ahogando, quemando y matando debido a las consecuencias de esta crisis: inundaciones, clima frío, incendios y terremotos.

Una disolución inmediata de la OTAN

8. La FSM se opone al despilfarro de recursos y dinero con fines militares. También se opone al uso de la energía nuclear con fines militares y pide la disolución inmediata de la OTAN.

9. No estamos de acuerdo con las exclusiones, discriminaciones, bloqueos y sanciones impuestas por los EE. UU., la OTAN y la UE contra varios países, ya que impactan negativamente en el nivel de vida de las familias de bajos ingresos, los trabajadores y los pequeños campesinos pobres.

Día Internacional de Acción de los Sindicatos por la Paz

10. El Congreso de la FSM declara el 1 de septiembre como “Día de Acción Internacional” de todos los sindicatos por la Paz. Es de recordar que el 1 de septiembre de 1939, la Alemania nazi inició la Segunda Guerra Mundial.

11. Hoy nuevamente estamos presenciando con grave preocupación el resurgimiento de fuerzas neo-fascistas y neonazis que representan una amenaza real para la clase obrera. Es imperativo y la necesidad del momento movilizar a las personas amantes de la paz contra el juego de guerra imperialista para promover y proteger la paz. En este marco, la FSM, sus miembros y amigos también celebran y conmemoran el 9 de mayo de cada año como el gran día que marca la victoria de los Pueblos; la derrota de Hitler y el final de la Segunda Guerra Mundial.

Un sistema de liderazgo democrático y colectivo

12. La FSM y todos sus órganos directivos funcionan de forma democrática y colectiva; el Consejo Presidencial, las UIS, las Oficinas Regionales, los Comités de Mujeres, Jóvenes, el Comité de Asesoría Jurídica, etc. coordinan sus acciones e iniciativas para promover las luchas de los trabajadores y seguir las direcciones centrales de la FSM. Las Oficinas Regionales y las UIS pueden cooperar y coordinar su actuación siempre que lo consideren necesario.

Cuadros políticos comprometidos con la lucha

13. La FSM siempre está alerta y viva de que somos juzgados por la gente por nuestra acción y eficacia. Todos nuestros órganos directivos, nuestros cuadros, todos somos observados por nuestra clase. Estamos comprometidos sin concesiones a luchar por la causa de los trabajadores. Cada cuadro está siendo juzgado y probado principalmente dentro de su propio país y sector. Es allí donde se pondrá a prueba si hace notar, promueve y apoya las direcciones, posiciones y banderas gloriosas de la FSM.

Armar un Comité Internacional para la Promoción y Protección de los Derechos y Libertades Sindicales

14. Incapaz de rescatarse a sí misma de las garras de hierro de la cada vez más profunda crisis sistémica del capitalismo, la burguesía ha recurrido al ataque bárbaro contra la clase obrera y el movimiento sindical: están fomentando el empleo precario, privando de la seguridad laboral, empeorando las condiciones de trabajo y demoliendo los derechos obreros, en particular el Derecho de Sindicación, el Derecho de Negociación Colectiva y el Derecho de Huelga.

15. Los monopolios, las empresas multinacionales y los gobiernos del mundo capitalista utilizan las nuevas tecnologías para restringir la formación de sindicatos y su libre funcionamiento así como las libertades democráticas e individuales de los trabajadores en la sociedad y en los lugares de trabajo.

16. Hoy en día, la embestida anti-obra de la supervisión impulsada por la tecnología y las restricciones a la acción sindical y social libre se suman a la antigua práctica antisindical y antide democrática de la represión cruel y violenta por parte de los empresarios, complementada con un autoritarismo estatal que llega hasta el punto de asesinar de manera organizada a sindicalistas.

17. El Comité Internacional para la protección de las libertades sindicales y democráticas reunirá pruebas y presentará memorandos a las Organizaciones Internacionales, apoyando las iniciativas pertinentes de los órganos directivos de la FSM. También cooperará con el Comité de Asesoría Jurídica de la FSM.

18. Por otro lado, la mayoría de los empleadores no aplican todas las medidas necesarias de salud y seguridad en los lugares de trabajo ya que consideran la salud y seguridad de los trabajadores como un costo; eso es lo que genera los “accidentes” laborales. La OIT estima que unos 2,3 millones de mujeres y hombres en todo el mundo sucumben a accidentes o enfermedades relacionadas con el trabajo cada año; esto corresponde a más de 6000 muertes cada día.

19. En todo el mundo se producen anualmente alrededor de 340 millones de accidentes laborales y 160 millones de víctimas de enfermedades relacionadas con el trabajo. La protección de los trabajadores dentro de los lugares de trabajo también estará entre las tareas del Comité Internacional.

Finanzas de la FSM

20. La FSM se basa en las cuotas de sus afiliados y el apoyo de sus amigos. No tiene otros recursos. Por esta razón, el Congreso hace un llamado a todas las organizaciones afiliadas para que paguen sus cuotas. El apoyo financiero fortalece la autosuficiencia financiera y el desarrollo organizativo de la FSM.

Un sistema integrado de comunicación de la FSM

21. La gran mayoría de los medios están controlados por los intereses de las multinacionales y los monopolios. Son instrumentos y mecanismos de propaganda contra los intereses de los trabajadores y los pueblos. Los sindicatos militantes deben desenmascarar el papel propagandístico de estos medios y al mismo tiempo encontrar formas de hacer llegar la verdad y los hechos reales a los trabajadores, aprovechando todas las posibilidades de la tecnología para romper el monopolio de las multinacionales en la información.

22. Decidimos que la Sede Central de la FSM permanezca en Atenas y que la ubicación de la Oficina Regional Europea de la FSM (EUROF) se traslade de Chipre, donde estaba hasta ahora, a Italia.

**Adoptado en el 18º Congreso de la FSM
En Roma, Italia - el 07 de mayo de 2022**

18th Congress Resolutions





WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

Class oriented - uniting - democratic - modern – independent – internationalist!



RESOLUTIONS 18th CONGRESS

1. Resolution of solidarity with Palestine
2. Resolution against the Russian-Ukrainian War
3. Resolution of solidarity with Cuba
4. Decision on the Cyprus problem
5. Resolution against private pensions
6. Resolution of Solidarity supporting and encouraging the Korean working class
7. Against Boko Haram, Niger
8. UZEL MAKINA ETC, TURKEY SOLIDARITY
9. VENEZUELA SOLIDARITY
10. IRAN, Against US Sanctions
11. Pakistan Workers Solidarity
12. Solidarity with workers of COSCO, LARCO, Greece

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